GOVT. OF GOA

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25



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.

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A Word From



Dr. Pramod Sawant

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa

It is with a sense of accomplishment and renewed determination that I present the 2024-25 Annual Report of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities. This report is not merely a compilation of data and activities; it is a narrative of our collective journey towards realizing the vision of an inclusive Goa. Since its establishment in 2022, the Commission has been instrumental in shifting the paradigm of disability rights, moving from mere awareness to tangible action.

The 2024-25 report highlights the successful execution of numerous awareness campaigns that have penetrated the grassroots level, fostering a deeper understanding and empathy within our communities. We have witnessed a significant increase in the proactive handling of grievances, ensuring that the voices of persons with disabilities are not only heard but acted upon. The Commission's dedication to advocating for policy changes and implementing accessible infrastructure has laid a solid foundation for future progress.

This year's report underscores the importance of collaboration across all sectors of society.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the entire team at the Commission for their unwavering commitment and relentless efforts. As we move forward, we must continue to build upon these achievements, ensuring that every citizen of Goa, regardless of their abilities, has the opportunity to thrive and contribute to our state's prosperity.

A Word From



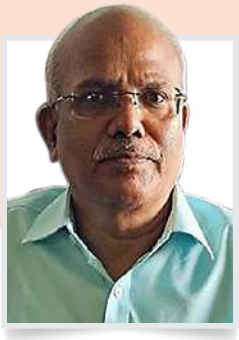
Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai

Hon'ble Minister for Department for
Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

The 2024- 2025 Annual Report of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities marks a pivotal year in our journey towards creating an inclusive Goa. This period has been particularly significant, as the establishment of an independent Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities by the Government of Goa has provided us with renewed focus and resources. It is with immense pleasure that I acknowledge the enhanced capacity this has afforded us, enabling more targeted and impactful efforts in empowering individuals with disabilities.

The synergy between the independent Department and the Office of the State Commissioner has been instrumental in advancing our shared goal of making Goa a truly inclusive state for all. This report highlights the collaborative initiatives, policy advancements, and on-ground actions that have collectively contributed to creating a more accessible and equitable environment. We remain committed to building upon these achievements, ensuring that every person with a disability in Goa has the opportunity to lead a dignified and fulfilling life.

A Word From



Shri. E V Vallavan IAS

Secretary, Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

It is with immense pleasure that I present the Annual Report for 2024-25, a testament to our steadfast commitment to making Goa a truly inclusive state. Beyond the crucial physical infrastructural changes and accessibility initiatives, I firmly believe that fostering a shift in societal attitudes is paramount to achieving genuine inclusion for persons with disabilities. The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has been instrumental in driving this change through impactful awareness campaigns, effectively transforming perspectives and dismantling preconceived notions.

These efforts have not only enhanced understanding but also cultivated empathy and respect within our communities. I commend the tireless dedication of the Commission and the entire department for their unwavering efforts in empowering persons with disabilities, and I look forward to continuing this vital work towards a more equitable and inclusive Goa.

A Word From



Shri. Guruprasad R. Pawaskar

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

It is with profound satisfaction that I present the 2024-2025 Annual Report of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, a document that encapsulates a year of dedicated service and significant strides towards creating a more equitable society. I wish to express my deepest appreciation to the Government of Goa for their visionary decision to establish an independent department focused on the empowerment of persons with disabilities. This strategic move underscores the government's unwavering commitment to ensuring that the rights and needs of this vital segment of our population are prioritized and addressed with the utmost diligence.

This report serves not merely as a record of our activities, but as a testament to the transformative impact of our collective efforts. We have diligently worked to implement a range of initiatives designed to enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities, focusing on key areas such as accessibility, education, employment, and social inclusion. We have strived to strengthen our grievance redressal mechanisms, ensuring that the voices of those we serve are heard and their concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.

Furthermore, we have actively engaged with various stakeholders, including NGOs, educational institutions, and community leaders, to foster a collaborative approach to disability rights.

The vision of an inclusive Goa, championed by the Honourable Chief Minister, is a guiding principle that drives our work. With the continued support of the government and the unwavering dedication of our team, I am confident that we will continue to make significant progress in realizing this vision, ensuring that every individual, regardless of their abilities, has the opportunity to lead a fulfilling and dignified life.

A Word From



Mrs. Varsha Naik

Director, Department for Empowerment
of Persons with Disabilities

As the Director of the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, I am deeply honored to present the 2024-2025 Annual Report. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Commissioner, Secretary, and the entire team for their exceptional work in advancing the cause of inclusion and accessibility across Goa. The State Commission's unwavering dedication has been pivotal in transforming Goa into a more inclusive state, where every individual, regardless of ability, feels valued and respected.

This year's report highlights significant strides in fostering inclusive education, enhancing employment opportunities, and ensuring accessible infrastructure, paving the way for a society where persons with disabilities can fully participate in all aspects of life.

Their efforts have not only focused on policy implementation but also on creating a culture of empathy and understanding, making Goa a place where diversity is celebrated and everyone has the opportunity to thrive. By championing initiatives that promote equal access to services, advocate for rights, and empower individuals, the Commission has reinforced our commitment to building a truly inclusive Goa, where everyone belongs.

A Word From



Shri. Taha I. Haaziq

Secretary, Office of the State Commissioner
for Persons with Disabilities

As Secretary of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, I am honored to present the 2024-2025 Annual Report, a testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive Goa. Our mission has always been to support and uplift persons with disabilities across all sectors, and this year's report reflects the tangible progress we've made. We've actively pursued inclusion in education, ensuring accessible learning environments and tailored support systems. In employment, we've facilitated skill development and job placements, empowering individuals to achieve economic independence. The Commission has also championed accessibility in sports, promoting participation and recognizing the remarkable achievements of our athletes.

Furthermore, we've intensified our efforts in spreading awareness about disability rights, conducting outreach programs to dispel misconceptions and foster empathy. This year marked a significant increase in our grievance redressal mechanisms, ensuring timely and effective resolution of issues faced by persons with disabilities. We have also strengthened our collaboration with NGOs, government agencies, and the private sector, creating a robust network of support. This report underscores our dedication to creating a barrier-free Goa, where every individual, regardless of ability, can live with dignity and contribute meaningfully to society.

Our Guiding Principles

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.



Organisational Structure



Shri. Guruprasad R. Pawaskar
Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities



Shri. Taha Haaziq
Secretary



Ms. Durga Umesh Naik
Administrative Officer



Shri. Ratnakant Cumbarjuenkar
Upper Division Clerk



Mrs. Ninette R. Silveira
Jr. Steno



Shri. Prashant C. Raut
Lower Division Clerk



Mrs. Sushanti A. Sawant
Lower Division Clerk



Shri. Prashant Gaonkar
Driver



Shri. Narayan Kubal
Multi Tasking Staff



Shri. Mithin Gaonkar
Multi Tasking Staff

Activities & Achievements

A Journey of Inclusion

• Empowering Future of Inclusivity

11th March 2024

Inauguration of the new premises of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Goa at 1st Floor Building B, New Market Complex, Porvorim Goa on 11th March 2024 at the hands of Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister Govt of Goa.



In frame Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Shri. Subhash Chandra (IAS), Secretary Social Welfare, Shri. Guruprasad R. Pawaskar, Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Director DEPwD, Shri. Ajit Panchwadkar, Director Social Welfare and Shri. Taha I. Haaziq, Secretary, SCPwD.

• Unveiling the Masterpiece & Stepping into a more Inclusive world

11th March 2024

Unveiling the International Purple Fest 2024 Coffee table book at the hands of Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa. The Book serves as a visual and literary masterpiece, capturing the essence of the festivals diversity, creativity and the remarkable talent exhibited by individuals with disabilities. Further, the Office distributed Prosthesis to 300+ beneficiaries, motorised wheelchairs and neo motion bike and launched the wheelchair accessible E-Rickshaws fostering inclusivity and mobility for all.



In frame Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri. Subhash Fal Dessai, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Shri. Kedar Naik, Saligao MLA, GSIDC Vice Chairman, Mrs. Meghna Shetgaonkar, Director DEPwD, Shri. Ajit Panchwadkar, Director Social Welfare and Shri. Taha I. Haaziq, Secretary, SCPwD. unveiling the International Purple Fest Goa 2024 coffee table book.

Activities & Achievements : *A journey of Inclusion*



In frame Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri. Subhash Fal Dessai, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar Hon'ble State Commissioner for PwDs distributing Prosthesis Limbs to the beneficiaries.



In frame Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri. Subhash Fal Dessai, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar Hon'ble State Commissioner for PwDs flagging off the wheelchair accessible E-Rickshaw.



In frame Shri. Subhash Fal Dessai, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, Shri. Ajit Panchwadkar, Director Social Welfare handing over the keys of Neo Motion Wheelchair Bike to the beneficiaries.

• International Women's Day 2024

14th March 2024

Celebrated International Women's Day 2024 in association with Rotary Club of Panaji Riviera and Disability Alliance for Inclusive Goa at Sanjay Centre for Special Education Porvorim Goa



• Historic Milestone

1st April 2024

The newly established Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities began its operation from 1st April 2024. An independent department for the empowerment of persons with disabilities in the state of Goa. Thanks to the continued efforts of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa Dr. Pramod Sawant for this historic decision.



Inauguration of the department premises by the hands of Chief Secretary, Shri. Punnet Kumar Goel, IAS, Hon'ble State Commissioner, Shri. Guruprasad R. Pawaskar, Director, DEPwD Mrs. Meghana Shetgaonkar

• Inclusive Endeavour

30th April 2024

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with Museum of Goa (MoG), TIES, YCT, along with the Goa Centre Program initiated 'Inclusive Endeavor' which was dedicated to fostering inclusivity, empowering Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and creating an enabling environment for all. It also focused on raising awareness and promoting sensitivity towards neurodiveristy within society, enhancing accessible tourism initiatives and industry relevant skills.



In frame State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, Secretary of State Commission for Persons with Disabilities Shri Taha Haaziq.



Panel discussion on inclusion by eminent experts

• Accessibility Check at Polling Booths

30th May 2024

The Office ensured accessibility checks at various polling booths in South Goa before the General Lok Sabha Election 2024. The Inspection was conducted by Secretary, Shri. Taha I. Haaziq, Shri. Sudesh Gaude along with Shri. Vishant Nagvekar and Shri. Patrick D'souza.



In frame Secretary, Shri. Taha I. Haaziq, along with Assistant Director, Social Welfare, Shri. Sudesh Gaude, Dr. Rashmi Dessai, Shri. Vishant Nagvekar and Shri. Patrick D'souza, at the polling booths.

• ART Inclusion

19th July 2024

The Art Inc. exhibition, was a groundbreaking initiative by the Office of Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities and Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Museum of Goa. The exhibition showcased the creative talents of over 45 artists through 100+ artworks. From July 19, 2024, the exhibition engaged with the public through 10+ guided tours, 7 workshops, and 5 outreach programs in schools, welcoming over 1000 visitors and 250+ students. Recognizing the importance of accessibility, the exhibition incorporated tactile artworks, Braille signages, audio descriptions, and Indian Sign Language interpretations. This initiative, supported by Access For All, a Mumbai-based organization dedicated to accessible public spaces, marks a significant step towards making art truly inclusive for everyone.



A group photo at the Art Inclusion event at the Museum of Goa. In frame Shri Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities; Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities; Shri Taha Haaziq, Secretary, Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities; Shri Prakash Kamal, Senior Journalist and artists.



In frame Shri Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of persons with disabilities along with Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar State Commissioner for person with disabilities in the exhibition area, admiring the artworks made by Artist with disabilities.



Image of twelve framed artworks arranged in grid like pattern.



In frame Ms. Fedricka Menezes, artist and Ms. Shardha Kerkar in the exhibition space admiring the artworks.



Image of a rectangular exhibition space showcasing artworks created by artist with disabilities.

• Indo-Iranian Film Festival on Disability Issues

26th, 27th & 28th June 2024

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Government of Goa), the Cultural House of the Islamic Republic of Iran, We Care Film Festival, and Brotherhood, showcased the unifying power of cinema. The festival offered a diverse and engaging selection of films from both Iran and India, carefully curated to inspire and connect with audiences. A key focus of the festival was accessibility, with all screenings thoughtfully adapted to ensure inclusivity for persons with disabilities.

Students from twelve schools across Goa were actively involved, immersing themselves in the rich cinematic traditions of both nations. The festival's reach extended across the state, with screenings held in Panjim (June 26th), Sakalim (June 27th), and Margao (June 28th), bringing the magic of film to a wide range of communities. The Indo-Iranian Film Festival served as a powerful platform for cultural exchange, fostering deeper understanding and appreciation between Iran and India. By championing accessibility and inclusivity, the festival ensured that the transformative potential of cinema could be shared and enjoyed by everyone.



In frame Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble Minister for Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Lighting the lamp, along with Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, Hon'ble State Commissioner for PwDs, Mrs. Varsha Naik, Director, Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Shri. Satish Kapoor, Founding President of We Care Film Festival, Shri. Mohammad Reza Fazel, Director of the Cultural House of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Activities & Achievements : *A journey of Inclusion*



A group photo with the teaching staff present at the program. In frame Shri. Satish Kapoor, Founding President of We Care Film Festival, Shri. Mohammad Reza Fazel, Director of the Cultural House of the Islamic Republic of Iran and teachers from various schools.



Image of students sitting in the auditorium.



Second day at Sakhalim: In frame Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt of Goa inaugurating the second day of the Indo Iranian Film Festival at Sankhali.

• Cyber Security Awareness

06th July 2024

The Office in collaboration with Goa State Legal Service Authority hosted a groundbreaking Cyber Security Awareness session on July 6, 2024 at the Lok Adalat Hall, High Court of Bombay at Goa. The session was led by Advocate Eeshan Usapkar, empowering 55 government employees with disabilities with essential cyber security knowledge.



In frame Advocate Eeshan Usapkar taking up the session and Ms. Muskan Shaikh, Sign Language Interpreter interpreting the session.

• Enhancing Mobility and Communication

18th July 2024

As part of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, the office proudly launched a transformative initiative to support Persons with Disabilities in Goa. A total of 32 Person with disabilities benefited, 10 lower floor modified two wheelers were distributed to 10 individuals, 10 Neo Motion Wheelchair Bikes were distributed to 10 persons with disabilities and 12 Communication Assistive devices were distributed for Children with special Needs. The distribution event was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Speaker Shri. Ramesh Tawadkar, Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of PwDs Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, MLA Margao Shri. Digambar Kamat, Secretary, DEPwD Shri E V Vallavan IAS, Hon'ble State Commissioner and Director, DEPwD.



In frame Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of PwDs Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, Secretary, DEPwD Shri E V Vallavan IAS, Hon'ble State Commissioner handing over the key of lower floor bike.



In frame Dr Pramod Sawant Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of PwDs, Shri Ramesh Tawadkar, Speaker Govt of Goa, Shri. Digambar Kamat MLA Margao, Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar Hon'ble State Commissioner, presenting communication assistive device to a student.



In frame Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri. Daji Salkar, MLA Vasco da Gama, Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, Hon'ble State Commissioner handing over the keys of neo motion wheelchair bike to the beneficiary.

• State Para Swimming Championship

3rd August 2024

Organised the State Para Swimming Championship in association with Goa Paralympic Association on August 3rd 2024 at the SAG Swimming Pool Campal Goa. The event received a footfall of 24 athletes from various disability groups including Visual Impaired, Intellectual disability, Autism, etc. Participants showcased their exceptional skills and sportsmanship across the various events which were classified into groups based on their disabilities. The Championship celebrated the spirit of inclusivity and athleticism, highlighting the talents of individuals with disabilities.



Group photograph of all the para swimmers alongside Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, Secretary, DEPwD Shri E V Vallavan IAS, Hon'ble State Commissioner Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, , Director, DEPwD Mrs. Varsha Naik, Mayor Corporation City of Panjim Shri Rohit Monseratte, Chairman, Para Swimming Association of India, Shri. Taha Haaziq, Secretray, SCPwD, Dr. V.K Dabbas, Secretary, Paralympic Committee of India Shri. Jaywant Gundu Hamanawar, and Shri. Sudesh Thakur, Secretary Goa Paralympic Association.

• Desh Bhakti Geet Gayan Spardha

15th August 2024

On the occasion of 78th Independence day the Office and Department in association with the Disability Alliance for Inclusive Goa and Rotary club of Panaji Riviera organised the Desh Bhakti Geet Gayan Spardha for Persons with Disabilities on 15th August 2024 at Sanjay Centre for Special Education. The Competition received a participation of more than 30 Persons with Disabilities from across the state. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Raj Sabha MP, Shri. Sadanand Tanavde, Director, DEPWD, Smt Varsha Naik, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, Chairman Sanjay Centre for Special Education Shri. Siddharth Kuncolinkar, Secretary, SCPwD, Shri. Taha Haazia, Member Secretary, Sanjay Centre for Special Education, Smt Neetal Amonkar, President, Disability Alliance for Inclusion Goa, Shri. Patrick D'Souza, Senior Journalist, Prakash Kamat, President, DRAG Shri. Avelino D'sa, Rtr Tanvi Atreya Sawant, President Rotary Club Panaji Rivera, Rtrn Shiva Baba Naik and Ann Rahul Nadkarni. The winners of the Competition were Ms Vibha Kanekar (First Prize), Mr Satny D'souza (Second prize), Ms. Amintaj Nashipudi (Third prize).



A group photograph of all the participants along with Raj Sabha MP, Shri. Sadanand Tanavde, Director, DEPWD, Smt Varsha Naik, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, Secretary, SCPwD, Shri. Taha Haaziq, Senior Journalist, Prakash Kamat, President, DRAG Shri. Avelino D'sa.

• Distribution of 12 Wheelchair Accessible E-Rickshaws to NGO's

22nd August 2024

10 NGO's/Special Schools received wheelchair accessible E-Rickshaws by the Office and Department to enhance the mobility of Children and students with special needs. Present at the occasion were Hon'ble Minister for the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, Ex Chief Minister of Goa, Shri. Laxmikant Parsekar, Secretary, Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Shri. E Vallavan IAS, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, Director, DEPWD, Smt. Varsha Naik, Secretary, SCPwD, Shri. Taha Haaziq and Director, Directorate of Social Welfare, Shri. Ajit Panchwadkar.



In Frame Hon'ble Minister for the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, Secretary, Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Shri. E Vallavan IAS, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, Director, DEPWD, Smt. Varsha Naik and Secretary, SCPwD, Shri. Taha Haaziq handing over the keys to Shri. Laxmikant Parsekar, Chairman, Harmala Panchakroshi Shiksha Mandal.

2
Keshav Seva Sadhana

2
Caritas Goa

1
Street Providence

1
Gujrati Educational Trust for the Handicapped

1
Atmavishvas

1
Aastha

1
Chetna Charitable Trust

1
Novi Survat

1
Disha School for Special Children

1
Harmal Panchakroshi



In Frame Hon'ble Minister for the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Secretary, Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Director, DEPWD, and Secretary, SCPwD, handing over the keys to Shri. Sitaram Gawde, Headmaster, Atmavishwas School.

• Paralympic Games Paris 2024

28th August - 8th Sept 2024

Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Shri. Subhash Phal Desai and Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Shri. Guruprasad R. Pawaskar attended the Paralympic Game 2024 which was held in Paris from 28th August 2024 to 08th September 2024.



Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Shri. Subhash Phal Desai and Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Shri. Guruprasad R. Pawaskar with Ms. Manisha Ramadass, Indian Para Badminton player.

• Landmark Launch: Goa's First Indian Sign Language Course

17th Sept 2024

The Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan) Extension counter officially launched the Diploma in Teaching Indian Sign Language (DTISL) course on September 17th 2024, at Goa University through an MoU signed between the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Goa.



In frame Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri. Guruprasad R. Pawaskar along with the faculty of AYJNISHD.

• XXIV National Para Swimming Championship Goa

19th to 23rd October 2024

The 24th National Para Swimming Championship (from October 19th to 23rd) highlighted the transformative power of sport. 518+ para-athletes competed in 300+ events, showcasing incredible talent and resilience. The event, a joint initiative Paralympic Committee of India in association with Office and Department was honoured by the presence of dignitaries including the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa. The championship fostered community and celebrated the inspiring achievements of India's para-athletes.



In frame Hon'ble Minister for Sports & Youth Affairs Shri. Govind Gaude; Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of PwDs Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai; Secretary, DEPwD Shri. E V Vallavan (IAS), Hon'ble State Commissioner for PwDs, Executive Director, DEPwD; Director Sports & Youth Affairs Dr. Geeta Nagvekar; President Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) Mr. Devendra Jhajharia, Chairman, PCI Dr. V K Dabass and other dignitaries lighting the lamp at the Inaugural function.



Image of a Para Swimmer diving into the pool



Image of a para swimmer swimming in a pool



Image of a group of para swimmers at the edge of an pool, preparing for the competition.



Image of a group of para swimmers diving into a pool.



Image of para swimmer at the starting block of a pool, preparing for the race.



Image of para swimmer diving into the pool



A group photograph captures the victorious Karnataka team alongside dignitaries including the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant, the Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of PwDs, Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, the Director of DEPwD, the Chairman of PCI, and the President of PCI. The team is presented with the Shri Khem Chand Dabas Memorial trophy



Participants enjoying a delightful cruise ride after the event.

• Colors of Resilience

16th-17th November 2024

The "Colours of Resilience" art exhibition, a key initiative of International Purple fest, launched at Taj Cidade de Goa Heritage, celebrating the artistic expression and empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. The preview evening, conceptualized by Fredericka Menezes, featured renowned artists like Tauno Kangro, Nidhi Sharma, and Manoj Das, as well as a captivating performance by Santoor maestro Nawab Khan. The exhibition, was open to the public on November 16th and 17th, showcasing artworks embodying resilience and inclusion.



In frame Hon'ble State Commissioner for PwDs Shri. Guruprasad R Pawaskar alongside Artist Nawab Khan and Frederika Menezes



In frame Tauno Kangro, an Estonian Sculptor, creating a live sculpture at the exhibition.



In frame Artist, Shri Manoj Das painting at the exhibition.



Display of painting by Fredrika Menezes at the exhibition.

• A Day of Joy and Connection :

Celebrating Individuals with ADHD and Down Syndrome

30th November 2024

Gracia de Orta Municipal Garden, Panaji, Goa, was transformed into a hub of joy and connection on November 30, 2024, as approximately 150 individuals with ADHD and Down Syndrome, their families, and supporters gathered for a day dedicated to celebration and inclusion. The vibrant atmosphere was a testament to the collaborative spirit behind the event, organized by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Sethu, the Down Syndrome Federation of India, and Dnyanvardhini Divyang Training College.

The day offered a rich tapestry of experiences, with NGOs and special schools from across Goa showcasing their dedication and talent. From captivating painting exhibitions that revealed the unique perspectives of the artists, to energetic Zumba Session that showcased their rhythm and spirit, the event was a feast for the senses. Food stalls offered a delicious array of treats, while interactive games fostered laughter and friendly competition.

The smiles and laughter that filled the garden were a testament to the event's success in creating a truly memorable and inclusive experience for all.



A group of children with and without disabilities energetically dancing during the Zumba session.



A group photo of the organising team featuring Hon'ble State Commissioner, Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, Director DEPwD Mrs. Varsha Naik, Secretary SCPwD Shri. Taha Haaziq, Dr. Nandita D'souza SETHU, Mrs Manju Sashidharn Principal, Dnyanvardhini Divyang Training College and other Team members.



Image of a purple display board showcasing 09 colourful posters made by students. This display was part of a Down Syndrome Awareness month activity.



Image from the activity area. Image shows a child with Down syndrome is actively cooking, assisted by two adults.



Image showcases a child with down syndrome painting a bag with a vegetable stencils.



A group of people and children gathered around a table, participating in a crafting activity.



Image showcases young women a highlight of the event's activity.



Image of children with and without disability engaged in a creative activity, drawing and colouring with markers. Two adults are guiding the children in the grassy setting.



Image of children with and without disability enjoying the zumba session.



Image showcases two young women holding their painted tote bad, a highlight of the event's activity.

• Enhanced Mobility for Salil Mahale

29th January 2025

Salil Mahale, a person with disability, received a Neo Motion motorized bike from the Office of the State Commission and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities on 29th January 2025. The Hon'ble Minister for the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Subhash Phal Desai, presented the bike, facilitating Mr. Mahale's mobility.



Hon'ble Minister for the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Subhash Phal Desai handing over the keys to Mr. Salil Mahale along with Hon'ble State Commissioner Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, Director DEPwD, Mrs. Varsha Naik, Secretary SCPwDs, Shri Taha I Haaziq, Deputy Director DEPwD, Dr. Mriselda Monteiro, and Administrative Officer SCPwD, Ms. Durga Naik.

• Sugamya Yatra :

Enhancing Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

7th Feb 2025

The Sugamya Yatra, a nationwide initiative promoting accessibility, was launched in Goa on February 7, 2025. Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Shri Subhash Phal Dessai, officially flagged off the program at the Goa College of Architecture. The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities leaded the initiative, collaborating with the Goa College of Architecture, Dnyanvardhini Divyang Training College, and 25 core leaders. Over 50 buildings across Goa were audited.



In frame Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities', Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble State Commissioner Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, Director DEPwD, Mrs. Varsha Naik, Secretary SCPwDs, Shri Taha I Haaziq, and Principal Goa College of Architecture Dr. Leon along with the Core team members and Students flagging off the Yatra at Goa College of Architecture.

Activities & Achievements : *A journey of Inclusion*



Shri. Prakash Kamat, Sr. Journalist and Disability Expert along with the team for Accessibility Audit of Caculo Mall.



Shri Prashant Raut and Shri Mahadev Sawant along with the team at Government buildings and public places in Panaji.



Student of Dnyanvardhini Divyang Training College at government schools in Vasco conducting accessibility audit.

• Distribution of wheelchair accessible E-Rickshaws to 10 beneficiaries

14th Feb 2025

The Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in partnership with Goa Miles distributed 10 Wheelchair Accessible E-Rickshaws. This distribution follows a MoU signed between the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and Goa Miles on August 06, 2024. The Partnership focuses on creating sustainable livelihoods for Persons with Disabilities by providing access to economic opportunities.



In Frame Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities', Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble State Commissioner Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, Director DEPwD, Mrs. Varsha Naik, Secretary SCPwDs, Shri Taha I Haaziq, Founder Goa Miles, Shri Utkarsh Dabhade along with the 10 beneficiaries.

Addressing Grievances

CASE No. 01/ComPwDs/2024-25/09 Date of Order: 20/12/2024

Name of the Parties : **Shane Antonio Vaz**

V/s

The Secretary, Alzira Co-op Housing Society Ltd,

The Chief Officer, Margao Municipal Council

Facts of the Case

The Complainant Shri. Shane Antonio Vaz, person with 100% disability R/o Alzira Appts. Opp. Nehru Stadium Fatorda, filed a complaint dated 24/01/2024 before this commission in regards to the harassment caused to him by the society he is living in.

Observations And Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs.

This commission recommended Respondent no -I The Secretary, Alzira Co-op Housing Society Ltd to issue necessary NOC to the Complainant and provide all required assistance for availing separate water connection to his premises.

Further this commission also recommended the Respondent no -II the Chairperson of the Margao Municipality to personally look into the issue and expedite process from his end, also the Executive Engineer of PWD, although is not party to the proceeding is recommended to expedite to issue connection to the Complainant being a Person with Disability to the premises bearing House tax no. 2/4554. which has a Garage now converted to shop.

As far as issue of demolition notice issued by Respondent no.-II concerned complainant may approach competent legal forum as this commission cannot **dwell into correction of the ordering end preview of this Commission,** further both the Respondents are recommended to file the Compliance report to this office with the period of 90 days from receipt of this Order as per section 81 of the Rights of the Person with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Addressing Grievances

CASE No. 11/Comm-PwDs/2023-24/1093 Date of Order: 07/12/2024

Name of the Parties : **Deepak Vinayak Shenvi Malkarnekar**

V/s

The Inspector, Department of Civil Supplies,

The Director, Department of Civil Supplies.

Facts of the Case

The Complainant Deepak Vinayak Shenvi Malkarnekar, a person with 82% having **Baker** Muscular Dystrophy, physical disability, working as UDC in the Civil Supplies Department Office, Quepem Taluka, who has made a complaint to this Commission with regards to requesting The Civil supplies department, Government of Goa to permit him to work from home.

Observations And Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs.

Upon hearing the Complainant and both the Respondent I and II, and going through the issue concerned in the complaint, and considering the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016,

This Commission has passed interim order dated 07/12/2023 whereby Complainant was allowed to work from home considering his Disability till passing the next Order.

Further this Commission has also recommended Complainant to make arrangement to pick-up files/assignment work given from office and after finishing the work or completing assignment work will make arrangement to drop office files/assignment work back, as to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to smooth functioning of the Office

After this interim Order was passed Compliance was submitted by the Respondent-11 on 23/02/2024 and it is seen that both the parties have complied with directions of this Commission and present arrangement is working well for the complainant as well as Respondent-1. The interim order passed by this Commission and the Order issued by the Respondent-II dated 23/02/2024 is made absolute, both parties are directed to adhere to the arrangement made vide order dated 07/12/2023.

Addressing Grievances

Case No. Date : August 16, 2024

Name of the parties : **Shri. Suresh Kumar Pal**

V/s

The Director, Directorate of Agriculture,
Krishi Bhavan Miramar, Tonca Caranzalem, Campal, Panjim, Goa

Resp. 1

The zonal Agriculture officer,
Zonal Agriculture office (Ponda)

Resp. 2

Facts of the Case

The complainant, Shri Suresh Kumar Pal, a person with 60% locomotor disability, filed a complaint against the Director, Directorate of Agriculture, regarding difficulties faced in attending office due to the non-functional lift in a building where his office is located on the third floor. Due to his health condition, he was unable to climb stairs and requested a temporary work arrangement on the ground floor. Upon receiving the complaint, the Commission issued notices to the respondents. After hearing both parties and considering the complainant's difficulties, the Commission passed an interim order, leading to the respondent making a temporary seating arrangement for the complainant on the ground floor of the post office. However, due to the complainant's worsening health, traveling to the post office 120 km away from his residence became impossible.

Observations and Recommendations/Decision of SCPwDs

Considering the complainant's medical condition and humanitarian grounds, the Commission recommended that the Director, Directorate of Agriculture, issue

an order allowing Shri Suresh Kumar Pal to work from home. Additionally, the Zonal Agriculture Office, Ponda-Goa, was directed to instruct the Zonal Agriculture Office, Mormugao-Goa, to allocate work to the complainant as per his ability. The complainant was advised to arrange for the pickup and drop-off of files to ensure the smooth functioning of office work.

The Commission also recommended that the complainant be paid full salary for the period where his leave was not regularized due to inaccessible working conditions. Furthermore, all service benefits, including retirement benefits, were to be ensured. The respondent was advised to consider the complainant's voluntary retirement request, if applied, as per government guidelines. The complainant was directed to perform his duties diligently and not misuse the work-from-home arrangement. A compliance report on these recommendations was to be submitted within 15 days of receiving the order. With this, the proceedings of the complaint were officially closed on 16th August 2024.

Media Highlights

गुरुवार, २५ एप्रिल २०२४ **तरुण भारत**

'सर्वसमावेशक' उपक्रम समाजासाठी पथदर्शी

राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर यांची माहिती : गोवा संग्रहालयात राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त, एनेबल इंडियातर्फे सांघिक कार्य

प्रतिनिधी
पणजी

गोवा राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाने एनेबल इंडियाच्या सहकार्याने कला, पुरस्कार आणि उद्योजकता विकास योजना माध्यमातून न्यूरोडायव्हर्सिटीचे सक्षमीकरण व्हावे म्हणून गोवा राज्य केंद्राने 'सर्वसमावेशक' हा पथदर्शी उपक्रम सुरू केला आहे. 'सर्वसमावेशक' हा समाजाला चालना देणे, दिव्यांग व्यक्तींचे सक्षमीकरण करणे आणि समतेसाठी पूरक वातावरण निर्माण करण्यासाठी आहे. हा पथदर्शी उपक्रम यशस्वी करण्यासाठी आम्ही कटिबद्ध आहोत, अशी माहिती राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर यांनी दिली.

आम्ही गोवा राज्य केंद्राच्या सहकार्याने 'सर्वसमावेशक' हा अन्य निर्मिती सेवांमधील विविध कामांसाठी आवश्यक तांत्रिक आणि सोफ्ट स्किल्स असा रोजगार कौशल्यांच्या विकासासाठी सर्वसमावेशक प्रशिक्षण देऊन दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना सक्षम बनवण्याचा प्रयत्न करत आहोत, नागरिक संस्था, आस्थापनांमध्ये इंटर्नशिप तसेच नोकरीची संधी उपलब्ध करून आमची प्रशिक्षण आणि त्यापलीकडे व्यापक उद्दिष्ट आहे. बौद्धिक आणि विकासात्मक दिव्यांग असलेल्या व्यक्तींसह आवश्यक असलेल्या व्यक्तींची ओळख करणे, त्यांना सर्वसमावेशक संग्रहालय अनुभवाचा लाभ घेता यावा यासाठी त्यांना सक्षम करणे, असे पावसकर म्हणाले.

'सर्वसमावेशक' हा उपक्रम तीन व्यापक उद्दिष्टे पूर्ण करण्यावर लक्ष केंद्रित करतो. जसे की, गोवा राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाने एनेबल इंडियाच्या सहकार्याने सर्वजनिक विकासाने सहकार्याने गोवा राज्य केंद्र उपक्रमाची सुरू केले आहे. समावेशक गोवीण ही कला, दूरदर्शन आणि उद्योजकतेद्वारे न्यूरोडायव्हर्सिटीचे सक्षमीकरणावर भर देणार असे पावसकर म्हणाले.



दिव्यांग असलेल्या व्यक्तींस आदर, सन्मान मिळण्याबरोबरच मौल्यवान योगदान देणारे समुदायक म्हणून गणलीकिक मिळवून देणे आणि समावेशकतेसाठी आदरपूर्वक दृश्यता येणे या पाची मुलभूत करण्यासाठी सर्वसमावेशकतेला प्रोत्साहन देण्यासाठी आम्ही प्रयत्नशील आहोत, असे पावसकर म्हणाले.

सर्वसमावेशक गोव्हीयेची वैशिष्ट्ये

- 'सर्वसमावेशक गोव्हीय' संपूर्ण राष्ट्रपोषाने आवश्यक असलेल्या डर्जालिक शिक्षण, सभ्य कार्यसंधी, आर्थिक विकास, असामानता कमी करणे आणि विविध वंचितांच्या पूर्ततेसाठी भागीदारी अशा विविध शाश्वत विकास उद्दिष्टांशी सुसंगत असी आहे.
- 'सर्वसमावेशक गोव्हीय' सुरू करण्याबरोबरच, अंध निर्मिती व्यवसाय सेवामध्ये वंचितांच्या विकास आणि रोजगार संधी उपलब्धता या माध्यमातून बौद्धिक आणि विकासात्मक दिव्यांग व्यक्तींच्या सक्षमीकरणासाठी आमची पोसरो या संस्मिसमंगेत सहकार्य उपक्रमाची घोषणा करताना गोवा राज्य केंद्रास अभिमान वाटत आहे.
- 'आमची पोसरो याचा अर्थ 'आमची कार्यशाळा' असा आहे. गोवा राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालय, क्वा व्हॉटिबल हब, सेंट रेजिस गोवा रिसॉर्ट्स आणि एनेबल इंडिया यांच्या भागीदारीतून आमची पोसरो हा उपक्रम राबवला जात आहे.

जागरूकता आणि संवेदनशीलता यावावत गोवा राज्य केंद्र आणि राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयासह विविध कार्यकारी घटकांसमवेतच्या धोरणात्मक सहकार्यातून, समाजामध्ये न्यूरोडायव्हर्सिटीबाबत जागरूकता वाढवणे आणि आणिव निर्मिती करणे हा या उपक्रमाचा उद्देश आहे.

सार्वजनिक ठिकाणी प्रवेश सुलभता

गोवा संग्रहालय आणि प्रेरणास्थळांचा सल्लागार अभिवित मुल्यार अशा पटकांच्या सहकार्यातून सार्वजनिक ठिकाणे सर्वांसाठी समावेशी आणि प्रवेश सुलभ होतील यासाठी पर्यावरणपूरक उपक्रमांना प्रोत्साहन देण्यासाठी प्रयत्न राबवले जातील.

रोजगार संधीतून सक्षमीकरण

रोजगाराच्या संधी उपलब्ध करणे आणि बौद्धिक आणि विकासात्मक दिव्यांग असलेल्या व्यक्तींच्या उद्योगपूरक कौशल्यांचा विकास करत मनुष्यबळामध्ये स्वयं आणि समावेशकतेला धोराना देणे हा या उपक्रमाचा उद्देश आहे.

'सर्वसमावेशक गोवीनेचा प्रारंभ हा एप्रिल आंतिम्रम जागरूकता महिना या उपक्रमाची सुरुवात असून यापासून आंतिम्रम सेक्टरना असलेल्या व्यक्तींची दखल घेणे आणि त्यांना प्रोत्साहन देणे या चार्चेचे मसला अधोरेखित केले गेले आहे. सामाजिक जबाबदारी आणि समाजावर सकारात्मक प्रभाव पाडण्यासाठी गोवा राज्य केंद्राच्या कटिबद्धतेचे प्रतीक म्हणजे हा उपक्रम आहे.

शनिवारी विविध सत्रांना सुरुवात

गोवा संग्रहालयामध्ये शनिवार दि. २७ एप्रिल रोजी सकाळी १० वाजल्यापासून 'सर्वसमावेशक' या उपक्रमाच्या शुभारंभी कार्यक्रमामध्ये विविध कार्यक्रमांच्या सहभागासाठी विविध सत्रे होणार आहेत. त्यामध्ये

१) **चित्रपट प्रदर्शन** : 'द लॉंग रोड – टू टर्न' हे पहिले सत्र सकाळी अकरा ते दुपारी बारा या वेळेत होणार असून, हा माहितीपट आम्हीही असलेल्या व्यक्तींच्या जीवनावर प्रकाश टाकतो आणि समजात सर्वसमावेशकतेचा पुरस्कार करतो.

२) **पालक संवाद** : एम्पॉवरिंग पेरेंट्स कलेक्टिव्ह : नर्चरिंग न्यूरोडायव्हर्सिटी' हे दुसरे सत्र दुपारी १२ ते १:३० या वेळेत होईल. या कार्यक्रमांचे उद्दिष्ट दिव्यांग व्यक्तींचे कल्याण आणि सक्षमीकरण यामध्ये पालकांना मार्गदर्शन भूमिका बजावण्यासाठी सक्षम करणे हे आहे.

३) **कलाकृती** : वर्ष-अकलत, आणि उपजीविकेच्या माध्यमातून आंतिम्रमवर मात' हे सत्र दुपारी ३ ते ४ या वेळेत आंतिम्रम सबुदायामधे सर्वसमावेशकता आणि सामीकरणात घालना देण्यावर विशेष भर देऊन कला, पकात्ता आणि उद्योजकता याद्वारे न्यूरोडायव्हर्स व्यक्तींच्या सक्षमीकरणाच्या धोरणाचा वेध या विषयावर या सत्रात चर्चा होणार असल्याचे पावसकर यांनी सांगितले.

राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाद्वारे इंडो-इराणी चित्रपट महोत्सवाचे आयोजन

■ *टीम दैनिक हेराल्ड*

पणजी, दि. २६ : राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाने सरकारच्या दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभाग, इस्लामिक रिपब्लिक ऑफ इराणचे सांस्कृतिक केंद्र आणि वुई केअर फेस्टिव्हल यांच्या सहकार्याने दिव्यंगत्वाच्या संकल्पनेवर इंडो-इराणी चित्रपट महोत्सवाचे आयोजन केले आहे. दिव्यंगत्वाबाबत जागृती घडवणे आणि सर्वसमावेशकतेला चालना देणे या उद्देशाने पणजीतील मॅकेनिझ पॅलेसमध्ये या चित्रपट महोत्सवाचे आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे. या महोत्सवाच्या उद्घाटनप्रसंगी सन्माननीय अतिथी म्हणून राज्याचे समाजकल्याण मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाचे सचिव ई. वल्लावन (आयएएस), राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण संचालनालयाच्या संचालिका वर्षा नाईक, वीई केअर फिल्म फेस्टिव्हलचे संस्थापक अध्यक्ष सतीश कपूर आणि इस्लामिक रिपब्लिक ऑफ इराणच्या सांस्कृतिक केंद्राचे अध्यक्ष महम्मद रेझा फझल यांची उपस्थिती राहिली.

महोत्सवाच्या उद्घाटनप्रसंगी मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई यांनी अशा उपक्रमांचे महत्त्व अधोरेखित करताना सांगितले की, दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना समानता, शिक्षणाचा अधिकार आणि इतर सर्व मूलभूत अधिकार मिळायला हवेत. कोणत्याही प्रकारचा भेदभाव न होता त्यांनाही सन्मानपूर्वक जीवन जगता आले पाहिजे. अशा चित्रपट महोत्सवांद्वारे या मुद्द्यांवर जागृती करणे आणि सर्वसामान्यांमध्ये जाणिवनिर्मिती घडवण्याच्या प्रयत्नांना गती मिळते. ज्या शिक्षकांनी आपल्या विद्यार्थ्यांना येथे आणले ते तरुण मनावर कायमस्वरूपी प्रभाव टाकण्यास हातभार लावत आहेत. या महोत्सवात सहभागी झालेले हे विद्यार्थी लहान वयातच या विचारांची शिदोरी मिळत असल्याने भाग्यवान आहेत आणि भविष्यात या विचारांचा

Media Highlights

Empowering Neurodiversity through Art, Advocacy and Entrepreneurship

Office of the Commissioner for PwDs initiates its "Inclusive Endeavour" with Goa State Centre initiative in partnership with Enable India

Goemkarponn desk



Panaji: The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities has initiated its pioneering initiative of GOA STATE CENTRE in partnership with Enable India with an aim of "Inclusive Endeavour" to empower Neurodiversity through Art, Advocacy and Entrepreneurship. This pathway program is dedicated to fostering an inclusive society, empowering persons with disabilities, and creating an enabling environment for all.

The "Inclusive Endeavour" initiative focuses on meeting three overarching objectives such as:

Awareness and Sensitization: Through strategic partnerships with the Goa State Centre and stakeholders, including the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, the initiative aims to raise awareness and promote sensitivity towards neurodiversity within society.

Accessibility of Public Spaces: Collaborating with institutions like the Museum of Goa and accessibility consultant Shri Abhijit Murugar, the initiative seeks to enhance accessibility tourism initiatives, ensuring that public spaces are inclusive and accessible to all. Empowerment Through Employment: By unlocking employment opportunities and equipping Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (PwIDD's) with industry-relevant skills, the initiative also aims to foster self-advocacy and promote inclusivity in the workforce. The initiation of "Inclusive Endeavour" coincides with April Autism Awareness Month, highlighting the importance of recognizing and supporting individuals on the autism spectrum. The initiative is a testament to the Goa State Centre Program's commitment to social responsibility and its dedication to making a positive impact in the community.

State Commissioner for PwDs,Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar emphasised that"Through our 'Inclusive Endeavour' program initiative in collaboration with the Goa State Centre, we are dedicated to empowering persons with disabilities by providing comprehensive training in both technical and soft skills essential for employment in the F&B sector. By offering internship opportunities, including placements at renowned establishments we aim to bridge the gap between training and real-world experience. Our commitment to promoting inclusion ensures that persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities are not only welcomed but celebrated as valuable contributors to the workforce and society at large."

The initiation event on Saturday April 27, 10 am onwards at the Museum of Goa will feature a series of engaging sessions along with partners such as:

Film Screening - "The Long Road – Chapter One" (11:00 am – 12:00 pm) which is a documentary championing individual with IDD and advocating for inclusivity within society. Baylon Fonseca - Supervising Sound Editor / Sound Designer / Educator, supports the endeavour by raising awareness and advocating for individuals with disabilities, promoting inclusivity and acceptance within society.

Engaging Parent Collective - "Empowering Parents Collective: Nurturing Neurodiversity" (Time: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm). The workshop aims to empower parents to play a vital role in enhancing the well-being and inclusion of PwIDD's. Arch Elizabeth Kuran, Founder member & Secretary, TIES - Towards.

Lakhan Singh and Vaishnavi Vinod shine

Staff Reporter
Panaji

The National Para Swimming Championship 2024 kicked off with a burst of excitement, as para-athletes from across India displayed extraordinary skill and determination.

24th Para Swimming C'ship

Organized by the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in partnership with the Paralympic Committee of India and the Sports Authority of Goa, the event embodies the spirit of inclusivity and top-tier athleticism.

In Event 1, Lakhan Singh from Rajasthan clinched the gold in the Men's S-4, while Odisha's Kamalkant earned silver. The Men's S-5 saw Narahari from Odisha take gold, with Lakshman Rao of Andhra Pradesh securing silver and Mohammad Shams Aalam from Bihar taking bronze. For the Junior Boys S-2, Muhammed Aasim of Kerala grabbed gold, while Sub Junior Boys S-5 saw Karnataka's Aniket Chid Ambar top the podium. Maharashtra's Riya Sachin took gold in Junior Girls S-5.

GOLD MEDALISTS

- Lakhan Singh (Men's S4)
- Vaishnavi (Women's S8)
- Narahari (Men's S5)
- Aasim (Jr Boys S2
- Aniket (Sub-Jr Boys S5)
- Riya (Junior Girls S5)
- Chaitanya (Men's S6)
- Tejas (Men's S7)
- Shridhar (Men's S8)
- Sahil (Men's S9)
- Kapil (Men's S10)
- Eeshan (Jr Boys S7)
- Kausar (Jr Boys S8)
- Mohit (Jr Boys S9)
- Hari (Jr Boys S10)
- Sabari (Sub-Jr Boys S7)
- Hariom (Sub-Jr Boys S8)
- Sathi (Women's S6)
- Sadhana (Women's S7)
- Shashruti (Women's S9)
- Devanshi (Women's S10)
- Ramnivas (Men's S5)
- Suraj (Sub-Jr Boys S11)
- Ali (Men's S12)
- Parmanand (Men's S13)
- Sai (Men's S14)

Media Highlights

Four Goan swimmers exemplify resilience, talent at National Para-Swimming Championships

Team Herald
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PANJIM: Four exceptional Goan para-swimmers Melvin Mendes, Mangesh Kuttikar, Sheron Figarado and Harshad Sawant competing in the S9 and S14 categories overcame significant challenges to secure their place in the competition, demonstrating remarkable resilience at the ongoing 24th National Para-Swimming Championships, held at the swimming pool, Campal-Panjim, on Sunday.

Melvin Mendes, 24-year-old, began his journey in para-sports with badminton before finding his true passion in swimming. His competitive swimming career took off in 2022, driven by his deep love for the water. Recently, Melvin secured gold medals in both the 50 metres and 100 metres freestyle at the State Para-Swimming Championships, earning him a spot at the national event.

Expressing gratitude for the experience as he competes against athletes from other States Mendes said, "You just have to get out of the house and explore what you want just once to understand the path ahead."

He hopes that through his performance here at the National Championships and with the huge participation persons with disabilities may get inspired to take up para-sports.

Mangesh Kuttikar, 54, is a pioneer in Goa's para-swimming community. Since beginning his journey in 1993, he has reached numerous milestones, including representing India on the international stage. Mangesh is particularly renowned for being the first person with a disability in India to swim 10 kilometers blindfolded with his hands tied. He attributes his success to self-learning and unwavering determination. Reflecting on his path, Kuttikar said, "The journey has not been easy, but determination and self-learning have brought me this far."

Sheron Figarado, 41, an associate professor at IIT Goa, started swimming in 2018 and ventured into competitive para-swimming in 2021. Since then, he has dedicated himself to honing his skills, with a particular focus on breaststroke events. Sharon credits his coach, Keshav Naik, for helping him refine his technique and expresses gratitude to his colleagues and staff at IIT for their unwavering support. While he values the backing of local training facilities, he hopes for more resources in the future.

"There is greater awareness about para-swimming now, and I believe we should encourage our neighbours and friends to get involved. My goal is to qualify for international events in the near future," he said.

20-year-old Harshad Sawant has been a dedicated para-swimmer for nearly five years. Encouraged by his teacher, he embraced competitive swimming while managing his studies at New Dawn Ashadeep. Beyond the pool, Harshad is also passionate about dancing and painting. "I enjoy competing in various events, and swimming has provided me with an opportunity to excel in sports," he said.

With his sights set on a gold medal in the S14 category, Harshad is hopeful that his determination and diverse talents will lead him to victory.

The 24th National Para Swimming Championships which provides a vital platform for para-swimmers to showcase their talents and advance in their sporting careers is organised by the Office of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Paralympic Committee of India and Sports Authority of Goa.



Sports Minister Govind Gaude lighting the traditional lamp to mark the opening of 24th National Para-Swimming Championships in the presence of Minister for the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) Subhash Phal Dessai, DEPwD Secretary E Vallavan, former chief Minister and Margao MLA Digambar Kamat, Sports Authority of Goa Executive Director Dr Geeta Nagvekar, Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs Director Arvind Khutkar, Department of Empowerment Director Varsha Naik, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar, Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Secretary Taha Haaziq, Paralympic Committee of India President Devendra Jhajharia, General Secretary Jaywant Singh and Dr V K Dabas, at the swimming pool, Campal-Panjim, on Sunday



"You just have to get out of the house and explore what you want just once to understand the path ahead
– Melvin Mendes



"The journey has not been easy, but determination and self-learning have brought me this far
– Mangesh Kuttikar



"There is greater awareness about para-swimming now. My goal is to qualify for international events
– Sheron Figarado



"I enjoy competing in various events, and swimming has provided me with an opportunity to excel in sports
– Harshad Sawant

दिव्यांग आयुक्तालय क्रीडा उपक्रमांसाठी सक्रिय

दिव्यांग मुलांसाठी प्रशिक्षकांची नियुक्ती जलद करण्याची शिफारस

प्रतिनिधी
पणजी

विविध क्रीडा उपक्रमांमध्ये सहभागासाठी विशेष गरजा असलेल्या मुलांनाही समान संधी निश्चित करण्यासाठी गोवा राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाने सक्रिय पावले उचलली आहेत. सरकारी जलतरण तलाव आणि इनडोअर स्टेडियममध्ये विशेष गरजा असलेल्या मुलांसाठी प्रशिक्षक नेमण्याची विनंती करणारे पत्र मडगावस्थित हॉ स्पिसिओ डिस्पिटलमधील जिन्हा अर्ली इंटरवेंशन सेंटरकडून नुकतेच आयुक्त कार्यालयास प्राप्त झाले होते. या पत्रव्यवहाराबाबत बांबोळी–गोवा येथील गोवा राज्य क्रीडा प्राधिकरणाचे कार्यकारी संचालकांनाही कळविण्यात आले.

या आवाहनाला प्रतिसाद म्हणून गोवा क्रीडा प्राधिकरणाच्या प्रशिक्षकांनी विशेष गरजा असलेल्या मुलांना प्रशिक्षण देण्यासाठी प्रशिक्षकांची अनुपलब्धता व्यक्त करण्यात आली होती. त्यानंतर, २८ डिसेंबर २०२३ रोजी याबाबत सुनावणी घेण्यात येऊन या विषयावर विस्तृत चर्चा करण्यात आली. भारतीय दिव्यांग व्यक्तींचे हक्क अधिनियम, २०१६मधील कलम ३०च्या निर्देशानुसार विशेष गरजा असलेल्या मुलांसाठी खास प्रशिक्षक नियुक्त करण्याबाबत या सुनावणीदरम्यान एकमताने सहमती झाली.

याबाबत गोवा राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर म्हणाले, क्रीडा उपक्रमांमध्ये समावेशकता निश्चित करणे ही याच केवळ हक्कापुरती मर्यादित नसून, त्या व्यक्तीचा आत्मसन्मान आणि कल्याण यांच्याशीही निगडीत आहे. विशेष गरजा असलेल्या मुलांना खेळात सहभागी होण्यासाठी समान संधी उपलब्ध करण्याच्या माध्यमातून आपण प्रत्येक व्यक्तीचा विकास, भरभराट होईल, अशा प्रकारचा समावेशी समाज घडविण्यास प्रोत्साहन देत आहोत.

भारतीय दिव्यांग व्यक्तींचे हक्क अधिनियम, २०१६मधील कलम ३०मध्ये दिव्यांग व्यक्तींचा क्रीडा उपक्रमामध्ये प्रभावी सहभाग सुनिश्चित करण्याच्या महत्त्वावर जोर देण्यात आला आहे. यामध्ये क्रीडा स्पर्धांमध्ये दिव्यांग व्यक्तींचा समावेश करण्यासाठी अभ्यासक्रमाची पुनर्रचना करणे, पायाभूत सुविधांची पुनर्रचना, तंत्रज्ञान विकसित करणे आणि निधी उपलब्धता निधीचे वाटप करणे याबाबतची सपरेषा निश्चित करण्यात आली आहे.

दिव्यांग व्यक्तींचे हक्क कायदा आणि दिव्यांग व्यक्तींचा क्रीडा हा मूलभूत अधिकार यांच्या अनुषंगाने गोवा राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाने विशेष गरजा असलेल्या मुलांसाठी प्रशिक्षकांची नियुक्ती जलद करण्याची शिफारस गोवा क्रीडा प्राधिकरणाकडे केली आहे. मुलांची गैरसोय होऊ नये आणि क्रीडा उपक्रमांमध्ये सहभागी होण्याचा त्यांचा हक्क सुरक्षित राहावा हा या शिफारशीमागचा उद्देश आहे.

Media Highlights



पणजी : राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाद्वारे आयोजित इंडो-इराणी चित्रपट महोत्सवाचे उदघाटन करताना समाजकल्याण खात्याचे मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई. सोबत आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर व इतर.

इंडो-इराणी चित्रपट महोत्सवाचे उदघाटन

पणजी : पुढारी वृत्तसेवा

दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना समानता, शिक्षणाचा अधिकार आणि इतर सर्व मूलभूत अधिकार मिळायला हवेत. कोणत्याही प्रकारचा भेदभाव न होता त्यांनाही सन्मानपूर्वक जीवन जगता आले पाहिजे. अशा चित्रपट महोत्सवांद्वारे या मुद्द्यांवर जागृती करणे आणि सर्वसामान्यांमध्ये जाणीवनिर्मिती घडवण्याच्या प्रयत्नांना गती मिळते, असे प्रतिपादन समाजकल्याण खात्याचे मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई यांनी केले.

राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाने गोवा सरकारच्या दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभाग, इस्लामिक रिपब्लिक ऑफ इराणचे सांस्कृतिक केंद्र आणि बुई केअर फेस्टिवल यांच्या सहकार्याने दिव्यांगत्वाच्या संकल्पनेवर आयोजित इंडो-इराणी चित्रपट महोत्सवाचे उदघाटन बुधवारी पणजीत केल्यानंतर फळदेसाई बोलत होते.

यावेळी दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाचे सचिव ई. वल्लावन (आयएएस), राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण संचालनालयाच्या संचालिका वर्षा नाईक, वीई केअर फिल्म फेस्टिवलचे संस्थापक अध्यक्ष सतीश कपूर आणि इस्लामिक रिपब्लिक ऑफ इराणच्या सांस्कृतिक केंद्राचे अध्यक्ष महम्मद रेझा फझल यांची उपस्थिती होती.

पावसकर म्हणाले, की या चित्रपट प्रदर्शनाचा उद्देश हा राज्यभर व्यापक जागृती करणे हा आहे. दिव्यांग व्यक्ती व विद्यार्थ्यांना समान संधी उपलब्ध होतील आणि त्यांना आदरपूर्वक वागणूक मिळेल असे सर्वसमावेशक वातावरण तयार करणे हे आमचे उद्दिष्ट आहे.



पणजी : राष्ट्रीय पॅरा जलतरण स्पर्धेतील एक क्षण.

२४ व्या राष्ट्रीय पॅरा स्विमिंग स्पर्धांना शानदार प्रारंभ

(पान १ वरून) फ्रीस्टाइलमध्ये कर्नाटकच्या सिमरने सुवर्णपदक जिंकले. महाराष्ट्राच्या शाश्वती विनायकने एस-९ मधील १०० मी. फ्रीस्टाइलमध्ये हरियाणाच्या स्पर्धकाला हरवत सुवर्ण काबीज केले.

महाराष्ट्राच्या चैतन्य विश्वासने एस - ६ मधील १०० मी. फ्रीस्टाइलमध्ये प्रभावी वेळेसह सुवर्णपदक जिंकले. महिलांच्या एस-८ प्रकारात महाराष्ट्राची वैष्णवी विनोद चमकली. सोबतच ज्युनिअर मुली-मुले तसेच पुरुष आणि महिलांच्या विविध श्रेणीत पहिल्याच दिवशी महाराष्ट्राने ३३ पदके पटकावली.

'Colours of Resilience', a Purplefest initiative, launched at Taj Cidade

THE GOAN | NETWORK
PANAJI

The first series of 'Colours of Resilience', an event under the Purplefest initiative, was launched amidst overwhelming applause at Taj Cidade de Goa Heritage at Dona Paula. Organised by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, the event marked a new chapter in celebrating the transformative power of art while uplifting the lives of Persons with Disabilities in Goa. 'Colours of Resilience' conceptualised by the celebrated Goan artist, poet and disability advocate Frederika Menezesis the first of its kind, dedicated to showcasing the extraordinary synergy between art and resilience.

The event commenced with a Preview Fellowship evening in the presence of esteemed guests, including Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, and world-renowned Estonian artist Tauno Kangro. Joining them were celebrated artist Nidhi Sharma, Mumbai-based artist Manoj Das, and Fredericka Menezes herself, each lending their unique artistic perspectives to this inspiring initiative.



State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Guruprasad Pawaskar along with celebrated Goan artist, poet and disability advocate Frederika Menezes and her mother at the inaugural function of 'Colours of Resilience'.

Elevating the evening's ambiance was a soulful performance by Santoor virtuoso and music healer Nawab Khan, a 9th-generation musician from Rajasthan, whose melodies mesmerised the audience and underscored the healing essence of art.

Speaking at the event, Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for Persons with disabilities remarked, "Colours of Resilience is a testament to the unyielding spirit and creativity of Persons with Disabilities. This initiative not only showcases their talent but also fosters a society that values diversity and inclusion."

The exhibition, featuring remarkable artworks that echo the spirit of resilience and inclusion, will remain open to the public on November 17 from 10 am to 8 pm.

Media Highlights

Karnataka clinch Team Championship Title

Team Herald
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PANJIM: Karnataka claimed the overall team championship at the 24th National Para Swimming Championships demonstrating remarkable talent and teamwork throughout the event at the SAG Swimming Pool, Campal, here, on Tuesday.

Their athletes excelled across multiple categories, earning recognition for their perseverance and dedication. This victory reinforces Karnataka's status as a frontrunner in para-sports in India.

A special recognition was given to Satendra from Gwalior, who, though not an individual winner, has made India proud with his Padma Shri Award, further solidifying his legacy in para-swimming.

The notable winners were: Men's Senior Individual Champion - Mohammad Assim from Kerala,

Men's Junior Champion - Ravi Karthik Bhavani from Andhra Pradesh, Men's Sub-Junior Champion -Revansh from Haryana, Women's Senior Champion - Sharyna S from Karnataka, Women's Junior Champion - Saee Pujari from Maharashtra and Women's Sub-Junior Champion - Abha Ganesh from Maharashtra.



The winners along with Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phal Dessai, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar, Aldona MLA Adv Carlos Ferreira, Office of State State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Secretary Taha Haziq and other officials at the SAG Swimming Pool, Campal-Panjim, on Tuesday

24TH NATIONAL PARA SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

Devendra Jhajharia, a distinguished paralympian and Padma Shri Awardee was honored for his significant contributions to Indian sports. In response, Jhajharia commended the sports community in Goa particularly emphasising the tireless efforts of Guruprasad Pawaskar, the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, who has been a strong advocate for inclusivity and the empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant graced the closing ceremony along with other dignitaries Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phal Dessai, Sports Minister Govind Gaude, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar, Aldona MLA Adv Carlos Ferreira, Office of State State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Secretary Taha Haziq and other officials.

In his address, Sawant highlighted the State's ongoing efforts to promote inclusivity. He said, "Over the past two years, Goa has been tirelessly dedicated to empowering individuals with disabilities, with the unwavering support of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Our commitment to a 'Fit Goa, Skill Goa, Inclusive Goa' remains strong."

He went on to express his vision for the future of para-swimming in Goa, stating, "We aim to have at least 10 para-swimmers from Goa representing India at the Los Angeles Paralympics."

Phal Dessai remarked, "Goa has emerged as a model State for inclusive sports events. We aim to organise many more such events and establish Goa as a leader in transforming the lives of Persons with Disabilities. This sentiment reflects the impactful efforts being made to uplift para-athletes, further establishing Goa as a pioneer in inclusive sporting initiatives."

The 24th National Para Swimming Championships was organised by the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Paralympic Committee of India and the Sports Authority of Goa.

The three-day event showcased an inspiring display of talent, determination, and sportsmanship, with over 500 athletes representing 28 States.

दिव्यांगांना आर्थिकदृष्ट्या सक्षम करणारे गोवा पहिले राज्य : मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई

दिव्यांगांच्या ई-रिक्षासाठी गोवा माइल्ससोबत करार

प्रतिनिधी । गोवन वार्ता

पणजी : दिव्यांगांना आर्थिकदृष्ट्या सक्षम करण्यासाठी ई-रिक्षा देणारे गोवा हे देशातील पहिले राज्य असेल. आम्ही त्यांना केवळ वैयक्तिक मदत देण्याऐवजी स्वत:च्या पायावर उभे राहण्यासाठी उपजीविकेच्या संधी उपलब्ध करून देत राहू," असे दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरण मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई म्हणाले.

राज्य दिव्यांग आयुक्त कार्यालयाने सीएसआर उपक्रमांतर्गत १० दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना ई-रिक्षा देण्यासाठी गोवा माइल्ससोबत करार केला. यावेळी मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई बोलत होते. याप्रसंगी गोवा दिव्यांग आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरण संचालक वर्षा नाईक आणि गोवा माइल्सचे उत्कर्ष दाभाळे उपस्थित होते. दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना वाहतूक सुलभ करण्यासाठी, दिव्यांग व्यक्तीच ई-रिक्षा चालवून भाडे आकारतील.



दिव्यांगांना ई-रिक्षा वितरित करताना मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई.

उपजीविकेचे साधन देणारे गोवा हे पहिलेच राज्य

आमच्या या निर्णयामुळे दिव्यांग व्यक्ती स्वतःच्या पायावर उभे राहू शकतील आणि आर्थिकदृष्ट्या सक्षम होऊ शकतील. सुरुवातीला आम्ही वैयक्तिक गरजांसाठी व्हीलचेअर आणि इतर सुविधा देत होतो. पण आता, एक पाऊल पुढे जाऊन, आम्ही उपजीविकेचे साधन देत असून अशा प्रकारचा लाभ देणारे गोवा हे पहिले राज्य असेल असे फळदेसाई म्हणाले.

मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई म्हणाले की, आमचा दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरण खाते सुयोग्यरित्या कार्यरत आहे आणि त्याचे फायदे शेवटच्या व्यक्तीपर्यंत पोहोचत आहेत.

Media Highlights

लोकमत

मस्ट READ

दिव्यांगांसाठी सुगम्य यात्रेला सुरुवात

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

पणजी : राज्य दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण खात्याचे मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई यांच्याहस्ते नुकताच सुगम्य यात्रेला अधिकृतपणे हिरवा झेंडा दाखवण्यात आला. या कार्यक्रमाला राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद आर. पावस्कर, सचिव ताहा हाजिक आणि राज्य दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाच्या संचालिका वर्षा नाईक उपस्थित होत्या.

सामाजिक न्याय आणि सक्षमीकरण मंत्रालयाद्वारे आयोजित हा उपक्रम सध्या देशभरात सुरू आहे. सुगम्य यात्रेचा उद्देश दिव्यांगजनांच्या विविध सुलभतेच्या गरजांबद्दल जागरूकता निर्माण करणे हा आहे. सार्वजनिक ठिकाणी प्रवेश सुलभतेबाबतचे मूल्यांकन करणाऱ्या पथकाचे नेतृत्व दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण खाते आणि दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण संचालनालयाच्या अधिकाऱ्यांनी केले. यामध्ये अभिजित मुरुगकर, विशांत नागवेकर, महादेव सावंत, प्रकाश कामत, प्रशांत राऊत, अनुप मापारी, रोहन वळवईकर, रितेश वायंगणकर, प्रसाद जोशी, जोसेफिना फर्नांडिस, मुस्कान शेख, दुर्गा नाईक, गौरीश नागवेकर व लखन आनंदानी यांचा सहभाग आहे.



सुगम्य यात्रेला हिरवा झेंडा दाखवून सुरुवात करताना मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, सोबत गुरुप्रसाद पावस्कर, ताहा हाजिक, वर्षा नाईक व इतर मान्यवर.

१ या यात्रेदरम्यान राजधानी पणजी शहरातील विविध इमारती, सार्वजनिक शौचालये, उद्याने, मॉल आणि रेस्टॉरंट आदी ठिकाणांचे प्रवेश सुलभता मूल्यांनासाठी प्राचार्य डॉ. लिओन मोरेनास यांच्या नेतृत्वाखाली ६० विद्यार्थ्यांचे १२ गट तयार केले. सर्व तालुक्यांतील सार्वजनिक इमारतींच्या मूल्यांकनासाठी ५० क्षेत्रीय सहायक आणि समाजकल्याण विभागातील कर्मचाऱ्यांचे १० गट तयार करण्यात आले आहेत.

२ ज्ञानदीप दिव्यांग प्रशिक्षण महाविद्यालयातील विद्यार्थी आणि प्राध्यापकांचा समावेश असलेल्या पाच गटांकडे दक्षिण गोव्यात मूल्यांकन करण्याची जबाबदारी देण्यात आली आहे. त्यांनी वास्को शहर आणि परिसरातील विविध इमारती आणि सार्वजनिक ठिकाणांचे प्रवेशसुलभता मूल्यांकन पूर्ण केले.

दिव्यांगांक अर्थीक नदरेन सक्षम करपी गोंय पयलें राज्य

■ भांगरभूंय । प्रतिनिधी

पणजी: दिव्यांगा खातीर इ-रिक्षा दिवन तांकां अर्थीक नदरेन सक्षम करपी गोंय देशातलें पयलें राज्य आसा. फकत वैयक्तीक मजत दिवचे सोडून आमी तांकां स्वताच्या पांयार उबे करून तांकां उपजिवीकेचे साधन दिवपाचे यत्न हाचे फुडेंय चालू आसतले, अशें दिव्यांग सशक्तीकरण मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाय हांणी सांगलें.

राज्य दिव्यांग आयुक्त कार्यालय हांणी गोवा मायल्स वांगडा कबलात करून सीएसआर उपक्रमा खाला 10 दिव्यांग व्यक्तींक इ-रिक्षा भेटयलो. दिव्यांग व्यक्तींक येरादारी करप सोंपी जावची म्हण दिव्यांग सुलभ इ-रिक्षा दिव्यांग व्यक्तीच चलोवन भाडें मारतले, अशें ह्या वेळार मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाय



हांणी सांगलें. कार्यावळीक गोंय दिव्यांग आयुक्त गुरूप्रसाद पावस्कार, दिव्यांग सशक्तीकरण संचालक वर्षा नायक, गोवा मायल्सचे उत्कर्ष दाभाळे हजर आशिल्ले.

मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाय हांणी सांगलें, आमचे दिव्यांग सशक्तीकरण खातें खऱ्या अर्थान कामाक लागलां आनी ताचो लाव निमाण्या मनश्या मेरेन पावता.

ज्या लोकांनी आतां मेरेन चितूक नाशिल्ले ते आपल्या पांयाचेर उबे रावन अर्थीक नदरेन सक्षम जावपाचे चित्ताले तें आतां पुराय जाला. आमी पयलीं व्हीलचेअराचेर हेर सुविधा वैयक्तीक गरजे खातीर दिताले. पूण आतां एक पावल मुखार वचून आमी ह्या प्रकाराचें उपजिवीकेचें साधन दिवपी गोंय हे पयलें राज्य आसतलें, अशे फळदेसाय हांणी सांगलें.

सीएसआर उपक्रमा खाला आमी इ- रिक्षा हाडल्यो तातूंतल्यान तांचो आत्मविश्वास वाडोवपा खातीर रिक्षा व्हड महोत्सवांक धाडून ते रिक्षा चलोवपाक शकतात हे दाखोवन दिले. गोंयचे सगळ्यांत व्हडलें एक्सपोझिशन पोरण्यां गोंया जालें तेन्ना 5 हजार दिव्यांग भावांनी ह्यो इ-रिक्षा चलयल्यात. तांकां गिरायकांचो संपर्क नासलो, ताका लागून गोवा मायल्सान आस्पावन तांकां खरे स्वरुप दिलां, अशें फळदेसाय हांणी म्हणलें.

दिव्यांग सुलभ इ-रिक्षा पर्पल फेस्टाक सुरू करून ताचो खूब वापर जाला. आमी गोवा मायल्सा वांगडा कबलात करून लाबार्थ्यांक येग्य मार्गदर्शन केला, अशे गोंय दिव्यांग आयुक्त गुरूप्रसाद पावस्कार हांणी सांगलें.

फकत दिव्यांग ह्यो रिक्षा चलयतले आनी हाचे ड्रायव्हर म्हण तांकां अर्थीक सक्षम करतले. दिव्यांगा खातीर उपजिवीका निर्माण करपा खातीर ही संकल्पना आसा. ह्यो रिक्षा पुराय गोंयभर भोंवतल्यो. कांय वाठार उरल्यात थंय ह्यो रिक्षा दिवन सुविधा उपलब्ध करतले. गरजुंनी ही रिक्षा गोवा मायल्स ॲपा वरवीं बूक करची, अशी म्हायती पावस्कार हांणी दिली.

Media Highlights

Goa on track to becoming India's first mobility-friendly state for PwDs: Phal Dessai

Staff Reporter
Panaji

Goa is on the track to becoming India's first modern and mobility-friendly state for persons with disabilities, said Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phal Dessai, on Friday.

"The launch of these accessible e-rickshaws aims to provide PwDs with the resources needed to lead independent lives. This distribution is a step towards enabling them to fully participate in all aspects of life," Phal Dessai said, while speaking at an event in Porvorim on Friday, where 10 persons with disabilities (PwDs) received e-rickshaws.



Persons with disabilities (PwDs) were handed over e-rickshaws at an event in Porvorim on Friday.

Citing the success of the initiative during the Old Goa feast, he noted that PwDs undertook 5,000 trips using e-rickshaws, boosting their confidence to start their own businesses.

"We want to send a message that persons with disabilities are not just recipients but also contributors to the society. If empowered, they can be more productive and set an example for others," he said, adding that the state government is committed to making Goa accessible for all, ensuring that every individual, regardless of ability, can move freely and live with dignity.

The initiative follows a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on August 6, 2024, between the office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and Goa Miles. The partnership aims to create sustainable livelihoods for PwDs by offering training, business opportunities, advertising support, and revenue generation mechanisms.

Accessible e-rickshaws handed over to ten PwD beneficiaries

INITIATIVE AIMS TO BOOST INDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PORVORIM

In a bid to enhance mobility and independence for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and to promote a more inclusive environment across the State, a new fleet of accessible e-rickshaws were handed over to 10 PwDs.

The event was organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, in partnership with GoaMiles.

Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phal Dessai handed over the vehicles to the 10 beneficiaries in the presence of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar, DEPwD Director Varsha Naik, GoaMiles Founder Utkarsh Dabhade and SCPwD Secretary Taha Haaziq.

One PwD was handed over a Neomotion electric wheelchair bike on the occasion.



Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phal Dessai along with beneficiaries of e-rickshaws. Anil Shankhwalker

In his address, Phal Dessai said the launch of these accessible e-rickshaws reflects the government's commitment to fostering inclusivity and providing the necessary resources for PwDs to lead independent lives.

"Our government is dedicated to creating a Goa where every individual, regardless of their abilities, can move freely and live with dignity. This distribution is a small but significant step towards ensuring PwDs in Goa can fully participate in all aspects of life," said Phal Dessai.

The minister stated that the e-rickshaws had been put to use during the recent Exposition at Old Goa, where PwDs had successfully operated 5,000 trips.

He informed that these e-rickshaws are being delivered free of cost to PwDs in different parts of Goa and their operation will be monitored by GoaMiles.

Pawaskar said the office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities had been instrumental in bringing this initiative to fruition, working to identify community needs and advocate for effective solutions.

The accessible e-rickshaws are equipped with features designed to meet the specific needs of PwDs, ensuring comfortable and easy navigation throughout Goa.

This launch follows a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and GoaMiles on August 6, 2024.

The partnership focuses on creating sustainable livelihoods for PwDs by providing access to economic opportunities. Goa Miles will support beneficiaries through training, business opportunities, advertising services, and revenue generation mechanisms.

Media Highlights

विशेष शाळा, बिगर शासकीय संस्थांना ई-रिक्षांचे वाटप

राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त, सक्षमीकरण विभागातर्फे विशेष उपक्रम

प्रतिनिधी
पणजी.

राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालय तसेच राज्य दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभाग यांच्यावतीने आज आयोजित एका विशेष कार्यक्रमामध्ये प्रवेशसुलभ ई-रिक्षांचे वितरण करत गोवा राज्यात दिव्यांग व्यक्तींसाठी प्रवेशसुलभता वाढवण्याच्या उद्देशाने एक महत्त्वपूर्ण पाऊल टाकले गेले.

केअर सेवा सोसायटी, करितास गोवा, स्टेप प्रिविडन्स, गुजराती एज्युकेशनल ट्रस्ट फॉर दि हॅंडिकॅप्ड, आत्मविश्वास स्पेशल स्कूल, आस्था आनंद निकेतन स्पेशल स्कूल, चेतना चॅरिटेबल ट्रस्ट, नवी सुरवात, दिशा स्कूल फॉर स्पेशल चिल्ड्रेन आणि हरमल पंचक्रोशी अशा गोव्यातील १० विनशासकीय संस्था आणि विशेष शाळांना एकूण १२ प्रवेशसुलभ ई-रिक्षांचे वाटप करण्यात आले.

या कार्यक्रमाला दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाचे मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, माजी मुख्यमंत्री लक्ष्मीकांत पार्सेकर, राज्य दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाचे सचिव ई. वल्लवन (आयएएस), राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, राज्य दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाच्या संचालक श्रीमती वर्षा नाईक, राज्य समाजकल्याण संचालनालयाचे संचालक अजित पंचवाडकर आणि कार्यालयाची महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका आहे. दिव्यांग व्यक्तींच्या विविध गरजा भेगेकेल्याने जाणून घेण्यासाठी आम्ही सतत प्रयत्नरत राहून अपेक्षित परिणाम व प्रभाव पडेल अशा उपाययोजनांचा शोध घेतला आहे. गोव्यातील दिव्यांग व्यक्तींचे दैनंदिन जीवनक्रम आनंददायी बनवण्याच्या आमच्या वचनबद्धतेचा हा उपक्रम म्हणजे प्रत्येक व्यक्तीला आपल्या राज्यात मुक्तपणे फिरण्याची आणि सन्मानाने जगण्याची संधी मिळावी यासाठी सुरू आहे या प्रवेशसुलभ ई-रिक्षा दिव्यांग व्यक्तींच्या विशिष्ट गरजा पूर्ण करणाऱ्या वैशिष्ट्यांसह सुसज्ज आहेत. राज्यातील रस्त्यांवर या ई-रिक्षांमुळे दिव्यांग व्यक्ती सुलभपणे व आरामात प्रवास करू शकणार आहेत. एकूण सार्वजनिक ठिकाणी आणि सेवांमध्ये सुलभता आणि सर्वसमावेशकता वाढवण्यासाठी गोवा सरकारच्या व्यापक प्रयत्नांचा एक भाग म्हणजे हा उपक्रम आहे.



पणजी : विशेष शाळा, बिगर शासकीय संस्थांना ई-रिक्षांची चावी देताना मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई व दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर. सोबत श्रीमती वर्षा नाईक, अजित पंचवाडकर, ताहा हाजिक व इतर.

राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाचे सचिव ताहा हाजिक, दिव्यांगजनांच्या विकासाचा पुरस्कार करणाऱ्या विविध गटांचे प्रतिनिधी उपस्थित होते.

मंत्री फळदेसाई यांनी सांगितले की, प्रत्येक व्यक्ती तिच्या शारीरिक क्षमतेच्या पलीकडे जात स्वतंत्रपणे, मुक्तपणे आणि सन्मानाने समाजात वावरू शकेल, असा गोवा निर्माण करण्यासाठी आमचे सरकार कटिबद्ध आहे. सर्वसमावेशक वातावरण निर्मिती करणे आणि आवश्यक सुविधा उपलब्ध करण्याबाबतच्या आमच्या वचनबद्धतेचे प्रतिबिंब आजच्या प्रवेशसुलभ ई-रिक्षा वितरण उपक्रमातून उमटले आहे.

आयुक्त पावसकर म्हणाले, विशेष शाळा, बिगर शासकीय संस्थांना ई रिक्षा पुरविणे हा उपक्रम यशस्वी करण्यासाठी राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त

Soon, PwDs to ply 'special' e-rickshaws on GoaMiles

Staff Reporter
Panaji

In a move towards financially empowering persons with disabilities (PwDs), the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities has launched an initiative to provide specially-designed e-rickshaws through the GoaMiles.

In this regard, a MoU was signed between the office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the GoaMiles.

Speaking at the launch, Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Dessai said that the initiative aims to give PwDs not only sustainable means to earn a livelihood but also the independence to move around without relying on others. "Together, we are committed to ensuring an inclusive environment where every individual can thrive with dignity and independence," he said.



A MoU was signed between the office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and GoaMiles.

The office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities will provide the e-rickshaws, the ownership of which will be transferred to GoaMiles, which will then allocate the vehicles to the PwDs on a temporary basis for one year.

The e-rickshaws will exclusively operate on the GoaMiles app. "We are committed to enriching the lives of persons with disabilities by ensuring greater accessibility and inclusivity in every aspect of their daily lives," said State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar.

Comprehensive training programmes will be conducted by GoaMiles to equip the drivers with the necessary skills to operate the e-rickshaws effectively. Besides, GoaMiles will develop tailored business models to empower PwDs and their families.

Media Highlights

Goa gets 2 sign language diploma courses

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Panaji: The office of the state commissioner of persons with disabilities declared the launch of two new diploma programmes in Goa.

These programmes— Diploma in Indian Sign Language Interpreting (DISLI) and Diploma in Teaching Indian Sign Language (DTISL)— are being introduced for the first time in the state. The courses are aimed to enhance skills in Indian sign language interpretation and teaching and opening new avenues in disability education.

The courses will be offered by the Ali Yavar National Institute of Speech and Hearing Disabilities (AYJNISHD), which operates under the department of empowerment of persons with disabilities in the ministry of social justice and empowerment. The programmes will be conducted in collaboration with the Goa University at its campus at the Taleigao plateau.

ACCESSIBLE LEARNING

- The programmes will be conducted in **collaboration with Goa University**
- They are the first-of-their-kind to **enhance skills in Indian sign language interpretation** and teaching



The introduction of these two diploma courses marks the first step in the implementation of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the office of the state commissioner for persons with disabilities, AYJNISHD, and Goa University.

The DISLI course is open to candidates who have completed their senior secondary education (10+2) or equivalent with at least 50% marks. Applicants must also have functional hands, be fluent in at least one language, and have normal hearing sensitivity. The DTISL course requires candidates to have completed their senior secondary education (10+2) or equivalent with at least 45% marks. Applicants should also have proficient skills in Indian Sign Language (ISL), possess a certificate of disability (deaf), and pass an interview and ISL skill assessment.

State commissioner for persons with disabilities, Guruprasad Pawaskar, said, "We are happy to initiate these two courses here in Goa through AYJNISHD and Goa University. The introduction of the DISLI and the DTISL programmes marks a significant milestone. These courses will empower individuals to bridge communication gaps and promote inclusivity."

Sejal, Sheron win double gold medals

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Panaji: Sejal Mutakekar won the 50m and 100m freestyle, while Sheron Figarado claimed gold in 100m freestyle and butterfly events of the State Para Swimming Championship 2024, organised by the office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, in association with Goa Paralympic Association at SAG swimming pool. A total of 24 participants in disability groups such as physically, visually, intellectually impaired, autistic, and others took part.

LOCAL BEAT

Winners: 50m freestyle: S12-S13: blind category: Saish Paryekar, **physical impaired S9-S10 category:** Manguesh Kuttikar; **physical impaired - S4 category:** Melwyn Mendes; **S1 category:** Dharmanna Kuri; **Autism SV3 category:** Alakh Desai; **Autism SV3:** Keya Lotlikar; **intellectual impaired:** Sejal Mutakekar; **100m freestyle: intellectual impaired:** Sejal Mutakekar; **Autism SV3:** Keya Lotlikar; **Autism SV3:** Vihaan Chari; **physical impaired-S4 category:** Melwyn Mendes; **Physical Impaired - S9/S10 category:** Ramkrishna Gawas; **Physical Impaired - S1 category: 50m breaststroke:** Moises Rodrigues; **physical impaired -S9 category:** Sheron Figarado, **100 mtr Breaststroke:** Sheron Figarado.



Winners of the State Para Swimming Championship, organised by the office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, at Campal on Saturday

Ronaldo, Venito on target

Navelim Villagers Union defeated United Club of Verna 2-0 to enter the semifinals of the Our Lady of Merces Inter-Village football tournament at Chinchinim church ground. Scoring a goal in each half, Navelim found the mark through Ronaldo Pereira and Venito Costa.

Calangute Veterans win

Calangute Veterans defeated Morjim Veterans 3-1 to move ahead in the Pogo Boys 50-plus Veterans Cup football tournament, organised by Pogo Boys of Merces at Merces church ground on Saturday. Allwyn, Agustine and Marcus scored a goal each for Calangute, while Anthony Fernandes reduced the margin of defeat for Morjim.

Media Highlights

दिव्यांगजनां वांगडा नेमान संवाद गरजेचो

सरन्यायाधीश: आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट- 2024 कॉफी टेबल बुकाचें प्रकाशन

■ भांगरभूंय । खबरां मेज

पणजी: फुडारांत भारतांत दिव्यांग व्यक्तींक सर्वसमावेशी समाजांत सहजतायेन वावुरपाक मेळटले, अशी वातावरण निर्मिती आपल्याक अपेक्षीत आस्ता. दिव्यांगजनांक समाजाच्या सगळ्याच मळार सॅपिपणी वांटेकार जावपाक मेळचे खातीर गरजेच्या उपाय येवजण्यां खातीर दिव्यांगजनां वांगडा नेमान संवाद जावपा शिवाय गरज गरजेचें थारतलें, अशें सरन्यायाधीश डॉ. डी. वाय. चंद्रचुड हांणी सांगलें.

इंडिया अॅक्सिबिलिटी समीट आनी राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त परिशद 2024 मजगतीं सरन्यायाधीश चंद्रचुड हांणी आंतराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट- 2024 विशींच्या कॉफी टेबल बुकाचें प्रकाशन केलें. ह्या केळार ते उलयताले. दिव्यांग व्यक्तीं खातीर सर्वसमावेशकता आनी प्रवेश सॅपेपणाक उर्ब दिवपाच्या उद्देशान बंगळूरू शरांत आयोजीत केल्लो हो उपक्रम एक मैलाचो चिरो थारलो.



आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट- 2024 विशींच्या कॉफी टेबल बुकाचें प्रकाशन करतना सरन्यायाधीश डॉ. डी. वाय. चंद्रचूड. वांगडा न्यायाधीश बी. वी. नागरत्न, राजेश अगरवाल (आयएएस), न्यायाधीश एन. वी. अंजारिया, पद्मश्री व्यंकटेश येथिराज आनी गुरुप्रसाद पावसकार.

ह्या सुवाळ्याक सर्वेच्च न्यायालयाचो न्यायाधीश बी. वी. नागरत्न, केंद्रीय दिव्यांगजन आयुक्तालयाचे मुख्य आयुक्त तशेंच केंद्र शासनाच्या दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाचे सचीव राजेश अगरवाल (आयएएस), कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालयाचे मुख्य न्यायाधीश एन. वी. अंजारिया, पद्मश्री पुरस्कार फावो जाल्ले तशेंच पर्पल अम्बेसिडर व्यंकटेश वेंथिराज आनी राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त (गोंय) गुरुप्रसाद पावसकार हाजीर आशिल्ले.

पावसकार हांणी सर्वसमावेशक समाज निर्मिती खातीर नेमान यत्न करपाचे गरजेचेर भर दिलो. तांणी सांगलें, दिव्यांग व्यक्तीं मदली जिद्द, निर्धार आनी तांचे यशोगाथा मनेचे खातीर एक आशेचें किर्ण आनी प्रभावी माची म्हण आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट हो उपक्रम काम करता. खंयचेय तांकीचे फलतडी वचून दरेक व्यक्तीक संद आनी संसाधनांचो लाव फेरपा खातीर समान न्याय मेळचो ही आमची लागणूक. कॉफी टेबल बूक हें फक्त अणभवांचें संचीत इतलें पुरतेंच मर्कादेत ना. सर्वसमावेशक आनी प्रवेश सॅपिपण समाजाचे दिशेन आमच्या सामूहीक प्रवासाचें प्रतिबिंब आस्ता. सगळ्या व्यक्तींच्या हक्कांचें आनी प्रतिश्ठेचें संरक्षण करीत राज्याचे खातीर विचारांचो आनी पुरस्कार करीत राज्य तशेंच ते खातीर पुरक धोरण चलीक लावप गरजेचें आस्ता, अशें तांणी सांगलें.

लोकमत

अनेक दिव्यांगांचा उत्स्फूर्त प्रतिसाद

दिव्यांगांच्या गीतगायन स्पर्धेत विभा काणेकर प्रथम

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

पणजी : राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्तालय आणि राज्य दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभाग यांच्यावतीने 'हर घर तिरंगा' उपक्रमांतर्गत डिसॅबिलिटी अलायन्स फॉर इन्क्लुझिव्ह गोवा आणि रोटरी क्लब ऑफ पणजी रिव्हिएरा यांच्या सहकार्याने केवळ दिव्यांगजनांसाठी देशभक्तिपर गीतगायन स्पर्धेचे आयोजन केले होते. या स्पर्धेतील प्रथम क्रमांक विभा काणेकर यांना प्राप्त झाला, द्वितीय क्रमांक स्टेनी डिसोझा यांना आणि तृतीय क्रमांक अमिताज नाशीपुडी यांना मिळाला.

पर्वरी येथील संजय सेंटर फॉर स्पेशल एज्युकेशनच्या मनोहर पर्रीकर स्मृती सभागृहामध्ये आयोजित या स्पर्धेचा पारितोषिक वितरण दिमाखात पार पडला. या सोहळ्याला प्रमुख पाहुणे म्हणून राज्यसभा खासदार सदानंद शेट तानावडे यांची उपस्थिती होती. यावेळी त्यांच्यासोबत राज्य दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाच्या संचालक वर्षा नाईक, राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, सचिव ताहा हजिक, संजय सेंटर फॉर स्पेशल एज्युकेशनचे अध्यक्ष सिद्धार्थ कुंकळ्येकर, संजय डिसोझा व सदस्य विशांत नागवेकर, ज्येष्ठ पत्रकार प्रकाश कामत, डिसॅबिलिटी राइट्स असोसिएशन ऑफ गोवा (डीआरएजी) अवेलिनो डिसा, रोटरी क्लब ऑफ पणजी रिव्हिएराच्या अध्यक्ष तन्वी अत्रेय सावंत, शिव बाबा नाईक आणि राहुल नाडकर्णी हे उपस्थित होते.



स्पर्धेतील विजयी स्पर्धकांसोबत खासदार सदानंद शेट तानावडे. सोबत गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, ताहा हजिक, सिद्धार्थ कुंकळ्येकर व इतर.

विजेत्यांचा सत्कार शेट तानावडे यांच्या हस्ते करण्यात आला. स्पर्धेचे परीक्षण सुरजीत तेली, विष्णू शिरोडकर यांनी केले. गीताची निवड, सादरीकरणातील स्पष्टता, आत्मविश्वास, ताल, चाल आणि एकूण सादरीकरण या निकषांच्या आधारे स्पर्धकांच्या कामगिरीचे मूल्यांकन करण्यात आले. स्पर्धेचे सूत्रसंचालन मंजिरी जोग यांनी केले.

Media Highlights

दिव्यांगांमध्ये आत्मविश्वास जागविणारा 'पर्पल फेस्त'

संदीप कांबळे
पणजी

दिवंगत मुख्यमंत्री मनोहर पर्रीकर यांच्या दूरदृष्टीमुळे आंतरराष्ट्रीय चित्रपट महोत्सव (इफ्फी) यशस्वीरित्या साजरा झाला. आता हा आंतरराष्ट्रीय महोत्सव गोव्यात घट्ट पाय रोवून आहे. त्याच्या यशस्वी आयोजनामुळे साऱ्या जगातील कलाकार व रसिक गोव्याकडे वेगळ्या नजरेने पाहू लागले. स्व. पर्रीकर यांच्याच पायावर पाय ठेवून विद्यमान मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत यांचे कार्य जोमाने सुरू आहे. त्यामुळेच गतवर्षी राष्ट्रीय पातळीवर झालेला दिव्यांगबांधवांचा पर्पल फेस्त यंदा आंतरराष्ट्रीय पातळीवर होत असल्याने मुख्यमंत्री सावंत यांचा व दिव्यांगजन आयुक्तालयाचा या पर्पल फेस्ताच्या माध्यमातून दिव्यांग बांधवांमध्ये आत्मविश्वास जागविण्याचा प्रयत्न होत आहे, असे दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर यांनी दै. 'तरुण भारत'शी बोलताना सांगितले.

पावसकर यांनी सांगितले की, गोवा राज्य हे देशाच्या नकाशात चिमुकले दिसत असले तरी अनेक क्षेत्रात उंच उंच भरारी मारली आहे.


गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर

प्रत्येक क्षेत्रात आज गोवा राज्याने देशात तसेच आंतरराष्ट्रीय पातळीवर दबदबा निर्माण केला आहे. ३७वा राष्ट्रीय क्रीडा महोत्सव साजरा करण्याचा मानही गोव्याला लाभला. अशा अनेक गोष्टी राज्यात घडत असल्याने पायाभूत सुविधाही निर्माण होत आहेत. याकडे दुर्लक्ष करून चालणार नाही, असेही ते म्हणाले.

"गतवर्षीप्रमाणेच यंदाही आम्हाला या पर्पल फेस्ताविषयी खूपच दर्जात्मक कार्य करावे लागले आहे. कारण दिव्यांग बांधव हा समाजाचा घटक आहे. त्यामुळे त्यांच्यात आत्मविश्वास निर्माण करण्याबरोबरच त्यांना सोयी-सुविधा मिळाव्यात, त्यांच्यातील कलागुण जगासमोर यावेत आणि त्यांच्यातील विशेषत: ही खुंटली जाऊ नये, यासाठी पर्पल फेस्त हा आमच्यासाठी एक अविभाज्य घटक झाला आहे, असे पावसकर म्हणाले.

आंतरराष्ट्रीय पातळीवर यंदा पर्पल फेस्त होत असल्याने त्याच्या आयोजनाबाबत विचारले असता पावसकर म्हणाले, "आतापर्यंत जगभरातील जवळपास १५ हजार जणांनी आपली नोंदणी केलेली आहे. महत्त्वाचे म्हणजे यातील सात हजारांहून अधिक नोंदणी करणारे हे गोमंतकीय बांधव आहेत. गतवर्षीपेक्षा यंदाचा पर्पल फेस्त हा मोठ्या प्रमाणात विस्तारलेला दिसेल. १५ कोटी रुपये खर्च करून या फेस्ताचे आयोजन करण्यात येत आहे. यातील १० कोटी रुपये हे केंद्र सरकाकडून तर ५ कोटी रुपये राज्य सरकार देणार आहे."

दिव्यांगांसाठी पुरविण्यात येणाऱ्या उपक्रमांविषयी विचारले असता गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर म्हणाले, "यंदा आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्त होत असल्याने पर्पल फेस्ताच्या ठिकाणी दिव्यांगांसाठी लागणाऱ्या उपकरणांचे खास स्टॉल असतील. याशिवाय गोमंतकीय दिव्यांगांना त्यांच्या गरजेनुसार या ठिकाणी मोफत उपकरणे देण्याची सोय करण्यात आली आहे. एखाद्याला आवश्यक उपकरण येथे उपलब्ध होऊ शकले नाही, तर त्यांचे नाव व क्रमांक लिहून त्यांना उपकरण उपलब्ध झाल्यानंतर देण्याचीही दखल घेतली जाणार आहे."

राज्याच्या इतिहासात पहिल्यांदाच ह्युमन लायब्ररी हा उपक्रम पर्पल फेस्ताच्या निमित्त आयोजित करण्यात आला आहे. विविध व्याधींनी ग्रस्त व त्यातून सुखरूप बाहेर आल्यानंतर जगभरात कार्य पोहचविणाऱ्या देशभरातील २२ ब्रँण्ड ॲम्बेसेडर पर्पल फेस्तासाठी निवडण्यात आलेले आहेत. हेच ॲम्बेसेडर 'ह्युमन लायब्ररी' म्हणून उपलब्ध असणार त्यांना कोणताही प्रश्न केल्यास ते त्या प्रश्नांचे समाधानकारक उत्तर देतील. याशिवाय विविध चर्चासत्र, ब्लाइड क्रिकेट, फुटबॉल, बुद्धिबळ, कॅरम यासारखे क्रीडा प्रकारही खेळविण्यात येणार आहेत, असे पावसकर म्हणाले.

यंदाच्या पर्पल फेस्तचे वेगळेपण असे

१) यंदाचा पर्पल फेस्त हा आंतरराष्ट्रीय पातळीवर सोमवारी ८ जानेवारी ते १३ जानेवारी या दरम्यान राज्यात होत आहे. कला अकादमी आणि दयानंद बांदोडकर कॉपोल मैदानावर फेस्ताचे आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे.

२) आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्तासाठी ९६ हजारांहून अधिक जणांची नोंदणी झालेली आहे. जागतिक पातळीवर दिव्यांगबांधवांसाठी आदर्शवादी काम करणारे मान्यवर तसेच २२ ब्रँण्ड ॲम्बेसेडर उपस्थित राहतील.

३) राज्यातील दिव्यांग मुलांसाठी वैयक्तीय तसेच इतर गोष्टींसाठी २ हजार ५०० रुपये, तर ९० टक्के दिव्यांग असलेल्या प्रौढ व्यक्तीला ३ हजार ५०० रुपये प्रतिमहिना देण्यात येणार आहेत.

४) पर्पल महोत्सवादरम्यान बांबोळी इस्पितळात दिव्यांग बांधवांसाठी लागणारी सहाय्यक उपकरणे उपलब्ध व्हावीत यासाठी कायमस्वरुपी केंद्र सुरू करण्यात येत आहेत.

दिव्यांगांसाठी हॉटेल, शोरूम होणार प्रवेशसुलभ : पावसकर

लोकमत

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

पणजी : दिव्यांग व्यक्तींसमोरील आव्हानांच्या पार्श्वभूमीवर, गोवा राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाने, रॅम्प माय सिटी आणि एनेबल इंडिया यांच्या सहकार्याने पणजी शहरातील विविध आस्थापने, हॉटेल आणि शोरूम दिव्यांगजनांसाठी प्रवेशसुलभ बनवण्यासाठी महत्त्वाकांक्षी प्रकल्प सुरू केला आहे.

पणजी शहरामध्ये विविध आस्थापने, हॉटेल, दुकाने अशा ठिकाणी दिव्यांगजनांसाठी प्रवेशसुलभतेची निश्चिती करण्याकामी राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयास पणजी महापालिकेचे सहकार्य मिळत आहे, असे गोवा राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर यांनी यावेळी सांगितले.

दिव्यांगासाठी राखीव, प्रवेशसुलभ स्थानांवर नियमांचे काटेकोर व सकारात्मकपणे पालन करणे सर्वांच्याच हिताचे ठरणार आहे.


पणजी शहरातील एका अस्थापनासमोर उपलब्ध करण्यात आलेला रॅम्प.

बदलाच्या प्रक्रियेस वेळ लागतो. आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टच्या माध्यमातून सार्वजनिक जागरूकता वाढविण्याचे, दिव्यांगजनांसाठी सर्वसमावेशकता आणि प्रवेशसुलभतेला प्रोत्साहन देण्याचे प्रभावी साधन म्हणून काम होईल. सध्या सुरू असलेल्या स्मार्ट सिटी प्रकल्पामध्ये, प्रवेशसुलभता निश्चित करण्याबाबत व्यापक प्रयत्न केले जात आहेत, असे पावसकर यांनी सांगितले.

या वर्षी पर्वरी येथील विधानसभा संकुल दिव्यांगजनांसाठी प्रवेशसुलभ करण्यात आले आहे. तसेच विविध शासकीय इमारतींमध्येही दिव्यांगजनांठी प्रवेशसुलभ रॅम्प विकसित केले जात असून, दिव्यांगजनांसाठी प्रवेशसुलभ व अनुकूल बदल घडविण्यात येत आहेत.

राज्य सरकारचे उपक्रम आणि कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक जबाबदारी प्रकल्पांच्या पाठबळातून दिव्यांगजनांसाठी सर्वत्र प्रवेशसुलभता वाढविण्याच्या चळवळीमध्ये गोवा राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालय नेहमीच अग्रेसर राहिले आहे, असेही पावसकर यांनी अधिक माहिती देताना सांगितले.

Media Highlights

SAG asked to expedite appointment of coaches for special children

MOVE AIMS TO ENSURE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) has written to the Sports Authority of Goa to expedite the appointment of coaches for children with special needs, in a bid to ensure these talents participate in sporting activities.

The Commission cited a recent case wherein the District Early Intervention Centre at Hospicio Hospital, Margao urged them to appoint coaches for children with special needs at government swimming pools and the indoor stadium.

PwD Commissioner Guruprasad Pawaskar stated that this correspondence was directed to the Executive Director of the Sports Authority of Goa to which the Director of Coaching at the Sports Authority of Goa expressed the unavailability of such coaches.

Consequently, a hearing was convened on December 28, 2023, where the matter was extensively discussed and unanimously resolved to appoint coaches specifically for children with special needs, aligning with the mandates of Section 30 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

INTERVENTION SOUGHT

- Office of State Commissioner for PwD urges Sports Authority of Goa for coach appointments
- District Early Intervention Centre urges for coaches at government pools and indoor stadium
- Commissioner Pawaskar directs Sports Authority to appoint coaches for children with special needs
- Hearing on Dec 28, 2023, resolves to appoint coaches for special needs children
- Inclusive sports participation crucial for dignity and well-being, says Pawaskar
- RPWD Act's Section 30 stresses on effective participation in sports for disabled
- Order issued to expedite coach appointments for special needs children, in line with RPWD Act

"Ensuring inclusive sports participation is not just a matter of rights, but of dignity and well-being. By providing equal opportunities for children with special needs to engage in sports, we are fostering a more inclusive society where every individual can thrive," Pawaskar said.

Section 30 of the RPWD Act emphasizes the importance of ensuring effective participation in sporting activities for persons with disabilities. It outlines measures for restructuring courses, redesigning infrastructure, developing technology, and allocating funds to facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in sporting events.

"In accordance with the RPWD Act and recognizing sports as a fundamental right for persons with disabilities, we issued an order recommending the SAG to expedite the appointment of coaches for children with special needs. This directive aims to prevent any inconvenience to the children and uphold their right to participate in sports activities," the Commissioner said.

GOVT. OF GOA



State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa

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

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