Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities - Goa

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26



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

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State Commission for Persons with Disabilities - Goa



Table of **Contents**

- **Establishment, Mandate and Jurisdiction** 04
- **Vision, Mission and Core Objectives** 05
- **Messages** 06-11
- **Administrative Structure** 12
- **Initiatives Undertaken During the Year (April 2025 – March 2026)** 13-61
- **Moments that Mattered** 62
- **Gist of Grievances** 68
- **Media Clipping** 81
- **The People Behind the Work** 100



ESTABLISHMENT, MANDATE AND JURISDICTION



The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa, functions as a statutory authority under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities (PwDs) and to ensure effective implementation of disability-related laws and policies across the State.

The Office became fully operational in January 2022 with the appointment of independent State Commissioner, marking decisive step towards strengthening institutional oversight in the disability sector Since then, it has actively worked to promote inclusive governance through the grievance redressal an accessibility audits, a policy advisory support sensitisation programmes, & coordinated action with Government departments and stakeholders.



Empowerment

A significant institutional record was achieved in April 2024 with the establishment of an independent Department Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities by the govt of Goa. The creation of this dedicated dept enhanced administrative focus, streamlined service delivery, and reinforced the State's commitment to the disability rights and inclusion. The mandate of the Office includes monitoring the implementation of the Act, inquiring into complaints of rights violations, advising the Govt on policy and promoting accessibility in infrastructure, transport, public services, and digital platforms Its jurisdiction extends across all Govt department public authorities, local bodies, educational institutions, and establishments covered under the Act.

In recognition of its impactful initiatives,the State Commissioner was honoured with the Best State Commissioner Award by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India. The award was conferred by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, acknowledging Goa's progressive efforts in advancing accessibility, empowerment, and inclusive development.

Vision, Mission and Core Objectives

Vision

To build an inclusive and accessible society where persons with disabilities are provided equal opportunities for growth and development, enabling them to lead productive, safe, and dignified lives.

Mission

To empower persons with disabilities through effective implementation of relevant laws, policies, and schemes, and to create an enabling environment that ensures equal opportunities, protection of rights, accessibility, and full participation in all spheres of life.



Core Objectives

To safeguard and promote the rights of persons with disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

To monitor implementation of disability-related policies and programmes.

To strengthen grievance redressal and legal safeguards.

To promote accessibility in infrastructure, transport, and digital services.

To advance awareness, inclusion, and empowerment initiatives transport, and digital services.



Hon’ble Chief Minister
Dr Pramod Sawant

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for the year 2025–26. The Government of Goa remains firmly committed to building an inclusive and accessible State where persons with disabilities are empowered to participate fully and equally in all spheres of life.

The establishment of an independent Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities marks a significant step toward strengthening institutional mechanisms and ensuring focused implementation of policies and programmes. I commend the Office for its sustained efforts in advancing accessibility, awareness, and equal opportunity across the State.





Hon'ble Minister
for Empowerment of
Persons with Disabilities

Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities - Goa

The journey towards inclusion requires consistent effort, coordination, and sensitivity. The initiatives undertaken during the year reflect the Government's commitment to safeguarding the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities while strengthening service delivery mechanisms.

Through policy interventions, accessibility measures, and targeted welfare initiatives, the Department and the Office of the State Commissioner have continued to expand outreach and impact. I appreciate the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in furthering the cause of empowerment and inclusion in Goa.





Secretary,
Empowerment of
Persons with Disabilities

Shri Prasanna Acharya, IAS

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities - Goa

The year 2025–26 has been marked by consolidation and strategic expansion in the disability sector. Strengthening administrative systems, improving interdepartmental coordination, and ensuring effective implementation of statutory provisions have remained key priorities.

The continued focus on accessibility, grievance redressal, and capacity building reflects a structured approach toward inclusive governance. The progress documented in this report underscores the importance of institutional commitment in achieving sustainable outcomes.





Director, Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

Mrs. Varsha Naik

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities - Goa

The Commission has worked with a focused mandate to enhance programme delivery and promote inclusive development across sectors. Special emphasis has been placed on accessibility, skill development, and welfare support mechanisms to ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities.

The initiatives undertaken during the year demonstrate steady progress in strengthening institutional frameworks and expanding outreach. I acknowledge the dedication of the teams involved in advancing the Commissions mission.





Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities continues to function as a vigilant statutory authority committed to safeguarding rights and promoting accountability. During the year, focused efforts were made to strengthen grievance redressal systems, monitor compliance, and promote awareness across institutions.

The recognition received at the national level reflects the collective efforts of the Government and stakeholders in building an inclusive ecosystem. We remain committed to advancing accessibility, equality, and empowerment across Goa.

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities - Goa





Secretary,
State Commission for
Persons with Disabilities

Shri Taha Haaziq

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities - Goa

The Commission has continued to support the implementation of disability rights through structured administrative processes and stakeholder engagement. Emphasis has been placed on efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness in addressing concerns brought before the Office.

The progress reflected in this report highlights the importance of coordinated institutional efforts in achieving inclusive governance. The Commission remains dedicated to strengthening systems that uphold dignity and equal opportunity for all.

ADMINISTRATIVE **STRUCTURE**

Meet the Team

Leadership Rooted in **Passion, Inclusion,** and Impact



Shri. Guruprasad R Pawaskar
State Commissioner



Shri. Taha Haaziq
Secretary



Ms. Durga U Naik
Administrative Officer



Shri. Ratnakant Cumbarjuenkar
Upper Divison Clerk



Mrs. Ninette R Silveira
Jr, Steno



Shri. Prashant Raut
Lower Division Clerk



Mrs. Sushanti A Sawant
Lower Division Clerk



Shri. Mahadev Sawant
Lower Division Clerk



Shri. Prashant Gaonkar
Driver



Shri. Mithin Gaonkar
Multi Tasking Staff



Shri. Narayan Kubal
Multi Tasking Staff



7 APRIL 2025

WORKSHOP ON CHILD & ADOLESCENT WITH MENTAL HEALTH

A one-day workshop on Child and Adolescent with Mental Health was conducted on 7th April 2025 which brought together experts Dr. Indrajit Thopte and Dr. Usha Dave to share vital insights on supporting mental health of Children with Disabilities.

The Workshop was Organized by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Goa Dyslexia Association, the event united educators, NGOs, and stakeholders across Goa for a meaningful exchange on mental wellness and inclusion.




Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities
State Commission for Persons with Disabilities-Goa.
Goa Dyslexia Association
WORKSHOP ON CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH
Organised by
OFFICE OF THE STATE COMMISSIONER FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
GOA DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION


WORKSHOP ON CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH


WORKSHOP ON CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

AWARENESS
WORKSHOP FOR CAREGIVER

7 MAY 2025







The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Goa, organized a workshop for caregivers. The session focused on enhancing caregiving skills and understanding the needs of persons with disabilities.

The session was conducted by Shri Prakash Kamat, Shri Mahadev Sawant, Ms. Federica Menezes, Mr. Patrick D'Souza, and sign language interpreter Ms. Muskan Sheikh. Key officials, including the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Director of the Department also attended the event, emphasizing the importance of empowering caregivers and promoting inclusivity.









SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON

RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT 2016

An important Sensitization workshop was organized for Police Personnel from across the state by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities on RPWD Act 2016. Present at the session were Shri Ajay K. Sharma (Deputy Inspector General of Police), Smt. Sunita Sawant (S.P) Narcotics Cell), Ms. Arshi Adig (SP, Foreigners Branch), DySPs and police inspectors. The workshop was conducted by Hon'ble State Commissioner, Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, in the presence of Shri Prakash Kamat, Member, State Advisory Board and Shri Donald Fernandes, Street Providence trust. Sensitization of police officers on RPwD Act 2016 ensures respectful treatment, prevents rights violations, and promotes accessible justice delivery.

18 JUNE 2025





21-31 JULY 2025

24TH WORLD IPCA
(INTERNATIONAL PHYSICALLY DISABLED CHESS ASSOCIATION)

The State of Goa proudly hosted the 24th World IPCA (International Physically Disabled Chess Association) Individual Chess Championship 2025, a prestigious global sporting event for persons with physical disabilities, held from 21st to 31st July 2025 at the International Centre Goa, Dona Paula. Hosted in Asia for the first time, the championship marked a significant milestone in inclusive sports and reinforced Goa's growing reputation as a global hub for accessibility-driven international events.

The event was jointly organised by the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa; the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa; the Goa Chess Association for Persons with Disabilities; and the Chess Federation for Physically Disabled under the aegis of the All India Chess Federation, with support from FIDE, the Asian Chess Federation, and the Sports Authority of India. This multi-institutional collaboration reflected strong interdepartmental coordination and commitment to inclusive sporting excellence.



97 Participants

Representing 18 federations from across the world



The championship brought together 97 participants representing 18 federations from across the world, including Angola, Armenia, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines, Poland, Slovakia, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, and FIDE. The scale and diversity of participation made it one of the most inclusive editions in the history of the tournament.



The opening ceremony was graced by distinguished dignitaries including Hon'ble Chief Minister Pramod Sawant; Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phal Dessai; IPCA President and International Master Andrei Gurbanov; Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Shri Guruprasad R. Pawaskar; and Director, Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Mrs. Varsha Naik. Their presence underscored the Government's firm commitment to promoting accessibility, empowerment, and equal opportunity in sports.

The tournament witnessed high-calibre competition from top international players. Among the leading participants were International Master Marcin Molenda of Poland, International Master Andrei Gurbanov of Israel, and several titled players representing FIDE and other federations. The championship rounds were marked by strategic brilliance and competitive intensity, with new leaders emerging as the tournament progressed. The much-anticipated Blitz Tournament added further excitement and engagement to the event.

Beyond competitive excellence, the championship exemplified the true spirit of inclusion and care. In a notable instance reflecting accessibility and empathy, a participant facing medical challenges was facilitated to compete from her room, ensuring continued participation without disadvantage. Such measures highlighted the event's inclusive planning and sensitivity toward diverse needs.

More than a tournament, the 24th World IPCA Chess Championship stood as a celebration of resilience, ability, and global unity. By successfully hosting this landmark international event, Goa strengthened its position as a leader in inclusive governance and demonstrated how sport can serve as a powerful platform for dignity, empowerment, and international collaboration.


GOA PURPLE
24TH WORLD
IPCA
INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2025
STANDARD, RAPID & BLITZ




World Chess
Championship
for Persons with
Disabilities









Sensitization Training

In the Rights of Person with Disability (Rpwd) act 2016 under the theme

"INCLUSIVE POLICY FOR A BARRIER FREE GOA"

19 AUGUST 2025

Office of state commissioner for persons with disabilities in association with the Goa Police begin their first-ever sensitization training on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, under the theme "Inclusive Policing for a Barrier-Free Goa."

This four-day program, organised by the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with iprobonoindia, equips police officials with the skills to engage with persons with disabilities with dignity, empathy, and respect. A landmark step towards dignity, accessibility & justice for all.

A Media Sensitization Workshop on

Inclusive and intersectional reporting on disability

19 AUGUST 2025





Purplefestgoa, risingflamenow in collaboration with disability commission goa, Department for Empowerment of persons with Disabilities, Govt of India, UN Women, uninindia, hosted 'Spotlight' - a media sensitization workshop on inclusive and intersectional reporting on disability. Journalists and media professionals explored how stories can amplify disabled voices with dignity, moving beyond pity or tokenism, and shape a more inclusive society.



9-12 OCT 2025

INTERNATIONAL **PURPLE FEST** GOA 2025

A Global Benchmark in Inclusion



The International Purple Fest Goa 2025, held from 9th to 12th October 2025, marked a significant milestone in advancing disability inclusion in India. Building on the success of earlier editions, the Fest evolved into a globally recognised platform bringing together persons with disabilities, policymakers, organisations, corporates, and international stakeholders. Organised by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, and United Nations India, the event achieved a historic first—marking the collaboration of United Nations India with a state-led initiative of this scale, reflecting global recognition of Goa's leadership in inclusion





Centred around the theme of

UNIVERSAL DESIGN & INCLUSIVE THINKING

The Fest was designed as a model of inclusive practices where every aspect—physical, digital, and social—ensured dignity, independence, and equal participation. With over 1 lakh visitors and 15,685 registered delegates, including more than 8,500 persons with disabilities, the Fest demonstrated unprecedented reach and impact at both national and international levels.

100000+

Visitors




NO EXIT
HAPPY HUMANS
HAPPY HUMANS




PURPLE FEST
PURPLE TRADITIONAL AND UNIFIED SPORTS










KORG
KRONOS

Accessibility & Inclusive Infrastructure



A defining strength of Purple Fest 2025 was its comprehensive and innovative approach to accessibility, setting a national benchmark in inclusive event design. Universal design principles were seamlessly integrated across all venues and systems, ensuring a barrier-free experience for all participants.



A fully inclusive wayfinding system was introduced, incorporating tactile pathways, high-contrast navigation, QR-enabled audio and text guides, and beacon-based mobile navigation to support independent movement. A multi-sensory communication ecosystem combined Braille signage, AAC panels, pictograms, and real-time AI captioning, along with national and international sign language interpretation, ensuring accessibility across diverse needs.





90 RAMPS

were installed at

65 LOCATIONS

along with

Accessible Washrooms

Wheelchair support station

Step-free Pathways



Despite heritage restrictions, key buildings at the Entertainment Society of Goa were successfully made accessible through the installation of ramps, lifts, and tactile tiles, demonstrating that inclusion can be achieved without compromising heritage value. Across Panjim city, 90 ramps were installed at 65 locations, along with accessible washrooms, wheelchair support stations, and step-free pathways, ensuring seamless mobility.

Digital inclusion was strengthened through the Purple Fest App, which offered voice-enabled navigation, real-time updates, and beacon-based guidance, enabling independent participation. Complementing these efforts, volunteers and stakeholders were extensively trained in disability awareness and inclusive etiquette, creating an environment rooted in dignity and respect.


ASHWEM SIXERS
BENAULIM BLAZERS
BENAULIM CHASERS
MORJIM LEGENDS


PURPLE
FEST
GOA 2025







Major Highlights & Key Features

The Fest featured a diverse range of thematic tracks designed to promote engagement, learning, and empowerment. The Purple Think Tank and Conference Track hosted over 25 national and international conferences and 8 high-level policy discussions on critical issues such as inclusive education, employment, assistive technology, and climate justice, generating actionable insights for the sector.

Experiential engagement was a key strength of the Fest. The Purple Fun Track introduced inclusive adventure activities such as scuba diving, parasailing, and heritage walks, while the Purple Sports Track showcased tournaments including blind cricket, wheelchair basketball, and unified sports, with participation from over 2,000 athletes. The Purple Rain Track brought together over 400 performers across 33 cultural performances, including renowned artists and performers with disabilities, with sign language interpretation extending accessibility to live entertainment.

25
National & international conference

100
Stalls in the exhibition area



2000 +
Participation of athletes

400
Performers



Interactive spaces such as the Purple Experience Zone and Purple Kaleidoscope offered immersive installations, tactile art, and sensitisation activities, fostering empathy and awareness. The Purple Exhibition Zone, featuring over 90 stalls by entrepreneurs with disabilities, promoted innovation and economic empowerment, contributing to the growth of the Purple Economy.





The Fest also witnessed several landmark initiatives and innovations, including the launch of assistive technologies, the Divyang Rath mobile therapy unit, accessible mobility solutions, and an accessible beach boardwalk at Miramar, enabling persons with disabilities to experience the beach independently for the first time. Unique awareness initiatives such as long-distance journeys and inclusive cycling expeditions further amplified the message of inclusion and resilience.






2156
2114









WORLD WHITE CANE DAY

15 OCT 2025

On the occasion of World White Cane Day 2025, the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (SCPwD) and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), in association with the National Association for the Blind (NAB) Goa, organised a meaningful and inspiring celebration. The event featured awareness walks and engaging performances, all aimed at promoting understanding and inclusion.

The initiative reinforced a powerful message that the white cane is not a symbol of limitation, but one of independence, confidence, and dignity, empowering persons with visual impairments to navigate the world with pride.




PANJIM


NAB
SERVE THE BLIND
WALK FOR THE BLIND


WHITE
CANE
A tool of
Independence


WALK FOR THE BLIND
WHITE
CANE
A tool of
Independence





A special Assessment camp

Distribution of Orthotics and Prosthetics







A special assessment camp for Orthotics and Prosthetics was organised with a focus on early identification and intervention. The camp provided comprehensive screening, personalised assessments, and expert guidance to enhance mobility, independence, and overall well-being among children with special needs. Through this initiative, beneficiaries received support tailored to their individual requirements, promoting improved quality of life and inclusion. The camp was successfully conducted with the support and collaboration of the District Administration North Goa, District Administration South Goa, the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, DDRCPL, and ALIMCO, reflecting a coordinated effort towards strengthening assistive care services for children with disabilities.







12 NOV 2025

DIVYANG RATH







After the news surfaced about a youth from Canacona, the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Goa, took prompt action by sending the Divyang Rath on 12th November 2025 within 24 hours. Divyang Rath an initiative launched during the International Purple Fest; Goa 2025 was sent directly to the youth's residence for assessment and support. Following the inspection, the case was identified as Spastic Cerebral Palsy (CP). The therapeutic intervention focused on lower body and upper body exercises, aimed at improving flexibility, reducing spasticity, and enhancing overall mobility.












INTERNATIONAL
PURPLE FEST
GOA



CHILDREN'S DAY INCLUSIVE NATURE TRAIL CHORAO

19 NOV 2025

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Bardez Coastal and supported by the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, organized a joyful Children's Day Celebration with the students of Sanjay Centre for Special Education, Porvorim on 19 November 2025.

The highlight of the programme was a beautifully curated inclusive nature trail at Chorao village, conducted with Soul Travelling. The trail was designed to be fully inclusive, ensuring that children with disabilities could participate, explore, and enjoy the experience comfortably. A total of 29 students and teachers participated in the experience, which was specially designed to be accessible for children with intellectual disabilities, hearing impairment, Down syndrome, and other diverse needs.



From exploring the serene surroundings to engaging with nature through sensory and guided activities, the children enjoyed every moment. Their smiles, excitement, and curiosity made it one of the most memorable outreach programmes of the year.









A day filled with learning, joy, accessibility, and inclusion just as Children's Day should be!

















WELCOMING THE GOA WHEELCHAIR CRICKET TEAM

19 NOV 2025

Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities welcomed the Goa Wheelchair Cricket Team, champions of the 6-State National Tournament CMs Trophy - Odisha, at Vasco Railway Station, honouring their remarkable achievement and making Goa truly proud. Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri.Guruprasad PawaskarSecretary, SCPwD Shri. Taha Haaziq were present during the welcome.



SENSITIZATION AWARENESS

SESSION FOR PERSON WITH DISABILITY

to pursue higher education through Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)

22 DEC 2025

The Office of the Goa State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, in coordination with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, organised a sensitization and awareness session at Porvorim, Goa, to encourage persons with disabilities to pursue higher education through Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

The session was addressed by Dr. Srinivas, Director, and Dr. Shashi Kumar, Deputy Director, IGNOU Regional Centre, Panaji, in the presence of Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Smt. Varsha Naik, Director, DEPWD, and Shri Taha Haaziq, Secretary, SCPD.

Conducted in hybrid mode with sign language interpretation, the session focused on inclusive education, scholarships, and opportunities for senior Government posts under the 4% reservation. Participants actively interacted with the dignitaries, who addressed queries on admissions, courses, and academic support. A meaningful step towards inclusive education, informed choices, and empowered futures for persons with disabilities.







7 JAN 2026

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSON WITH DISABILITY

EMPOWERING LIVES & ENSURING RIGHTS





The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was observed on 7 January 2026 bringing together leaders, students, and the disability community to celebrate inclusion, talent, and equal opportunities. From felicitating the wheelchair cricket team to recognizing creativity through art, quiz, and performance competitions, the event reflected Goa's commitment to an inclusive and accessible society.










SANJAY CENTRE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION


Empowering Lives, Ensuring Rights
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF


SANJAY CENTRE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION





AN AWARENESS SESSION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016

22 DEC 2025

FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS FROM VARIOUS COURTS OF GOA.

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with the Goa State Legal Services Authority (under the aegis of NALSA), organised an awareness session on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 for judicial officers from various courts across Goa. The session aimed to strengthen legal understanding and promote effective implementation of disability rights within the judicial system. It was graced by Hon'ble Justice Shri Valmiki Menezes, Hon'ble Justice Shri Ashish Chavan, Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Mrs Varsha Naik, Director, Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Shri Taha Haaziq, Secretary to the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, and Mrs Durga Madkaikar, Member Secretary, GSLSA. The resource persons, Advocate Amar Jain and Dr Sachin Sharma, delivered insightful presentations on the provisions, scope, and practical implications of the Act, fostering greater awareness and sensitisation among judicial officers towards ensuring inclusive and rights-based adjudication.






Serial no $1 --A...

11 JAN 2026

RUN FOR INCLUSION

The programme was led by Rotary International District 3170 and organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Rotary Club of Bardez Coastal Charitable Trust, in collaboration with the Disability Alliance for Inclusive Goa.

Stride for Equality Run for Inclusion was conducted as an inclusive marathon aimed at promoting social inclusion and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. The event brought together people from different backgrounds to participate in a collective effort for social change.








THE PANTHERS
GOA
099
050
299
Rotary
Club of Bardez Coastal

The marathon included 3 km and 5 km running categories, ensuring participation from people of all age groups and abilities. Special attention was given to accessibility, making the event inclusive and barrier-free for persons with disabilities.








SSAC
AMBA
KRIDHA
RUN FOR INCLUSION
MARATHON 3KM | 5KM




KRIDHA
STRIDE FOR EQUALITY
RUN FOR INCLUSION



Support to inclusive Tourism Initiative

by 18NotOut

19-21 JAN 2026

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (SCPwD), Government of Goa, has extended support to an inclusive tourism initiative organized by 18NotOut (Jaiden Forever Foundation), a parent-led, Section 8 non-profit organization based in Bengaluru, working for children with disabilities and their families.

18NotOut planned a three-day inclusive trip to Goa from 19th to 21st January 2026, with participation from 15–20 families (approximately 30–40 participants), including persons with locomotor and visual disabilities, some of whom are wheelchair users. The visit was organized with the objectives of social inclusion, recreation, and experiential learning, while ensuring dignity, safety, and accessibility for all participants.

The initiative aligns with the objectives and spirit of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and reflects the Government of Goa's continued commitment towards promoting accessible tourism, inclusive public spaces, and equal participation of persons with disabilities in social and recreational activities.













25 JAN 2026

District Convention for Persons with Disabilities

The South Goa District Convention, jointly organized by Saksham Goa Organisation and the Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa, was held on 25 January 2026 at Uma Bhavan, Dhavali–Ponda. Mr. Abhay Prabhu, President of Saksham Goa, introduced the organization's initiatives, while the convention was presided over by Mr. Pandurang Kurtikar, Chairman of the Thrift Cooperative Society and Goa State Cooperative Bank, who assured continued support for disability welfare. Guidance was provided by Mr. Atul Karkhanis (RSS). Awareness stickers on "What can I do for persons with disabilities?" were released and explained by Mr. Sudesh Kavalekar. Mr. Mahadev Sawant shared information on government schemes, with inputs from Mr. Nikhil Kavalekar. A highlight was interviews of employed persons and entrepreneurs with disabilities conducted by Ms. Anita (Sushanti) Kavalekar, sharing inspiring experiences. An exhibition on the RPwD Act, 2016 was presented by Mr. Pranay Kavarekar. The event was anchored by Ms. Madhuri Desai, organised under Ms. Savita Desai, and attended by 50 employed persons with disabilities, entrepreneurs, members, volunteers, and dignitaries. January 2026



Sensitization and Awareness

On Disability Rights and Inclusive Workplace

28 JAN 2026





A Sensitisation & Awareness Session was organised at Goa Shipyard Limited, Vasco, on 28th Jan 2026 by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

The session was led by Shri Prakash Kamat, Senior Journalist & Disability Rights Activist, along with Shri Mahadev Sawant, Shri Vishant Nagvekar, Shri Prasad Joshi, Ms. Jamila Haziq, and Ms. Muskan Shaikh, Sign Language Interpreter. Total 50 staff were present in Goa Shipyard limited.











A SESSION ON AWARENESS OF THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FOR MATRUCHCHAYA WORKERS

Organised by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, the session focused on practical guidance for assisting persons with disabilities in public and hospital settings.

BEYOND THE MEDICAL MODEL

DISABILITY RIGHTS **ARE HUMAN RIGHTS**

6-7 MARCH 2026







On the occasion of International Women's Day, a 2day workshop was conducted"Beyond the Medical odel: Gender, Disability and Rights" held on 6th March 2026 at the Goa Medical College for the Medical students and helthcare professionals and "Disability Rights Are Human Rights" on 7th March 2026 at the New District & Sessions Court Complex, Merces by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa, under the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with Rising Flame, the North Goa District Legal Services Authority, and the Rotary Club Bardez Coastal. The workshop brought together law students, women with disabilities, and legal professionals to engage in meaningful dialogue on disability rights through an intersectional lens.

Key themes included access to justice, workplace dignity, domestic violence, and sexual violence laws impacting women with disabilities. The sessions, led by experts Nidhi Goyal, Aanchal Bhateja, Srinidhi Raghavan, and Sanchita Ain, provided valuable insights into the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, workplace inclusion, and legal protections, fostering greater awareness and strengthening the discourse on inclusive rights and justice.

27 MARCH 2026

The Samarth Accessibility Metric Workshop

Making hotels Inclusive for all



The Samarth Accessibility Metric Workshop: Making Hotels Inclusive for All was organised on 27th March 2026 at Taj Vivanta Goa by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, in association with Samarth by Hyundai, Times Network, and Samarthyam. The workshop brought together professionals from the hospitality sector to build awareness and capacity on inclusive design and accessibility standards within hotel environments.



Through interactive sessions and practical insights, participants were encouraged to adopt measures that ensure barrier-free and welcoming spaces for persons with disabilities. The initiative marked a significant step towards fostering a more inclusive hospitality industry and reaffirmed the commitment to building a future where accessibility is integral to service and infrastructure.



Advancing Inclusive Employment in the Hospitality Sector: IHCL Goa Pilot Initiative (FY 2025–2026)

BEYOND LABELS™
Voices That Redefine Norms

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, facilitated and supported a comprehensive disability inclusion pilot initiative implemented by the Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), Goa, in collaboration with Beyond Labels and other key institutional partners. This initiative represents a structured and scalable model for integrating persons with disabilities (PwDs) into the mainstream hospitality workforce, demonstrating a shift from compliance-driven approaches to sustainable, practice-based inclusion.

IHCL Goa operationalised inclusion across its hospitality properties, including Taj Cidade de Goa and Taj Exotica, by embedding disability inclusion within its human resource and operational systems. This included conducting structured workshops on disability inclusion, neurodiversity, workplace accessibility, and inclusive guest engagement, thereby enhancing the capacity of leadership and staff.
Beyond Labels contributed significantly as a technical and implementation partner by designing and delivering specialised training modules and capacity-building programmes.

A key component of the initiative was the creation of employment pathways for persons with disabilities through a structured “Classroom-to-Career” approach. In partnership with Sanjay School, candidates were provided with opportunities for internships, workplace exposure, and skill alignment within the hospitality sector. Pre-employment assessments were conducted for over 50 candidates to map their abilities with suitable job roles and identify necessary workplace accommodations.



MOMENTS
THAT MATTERED





ACCESSIBLE 56TH IFFI 2025

MAKING CINEMA INCLUSIVE—OVER 90 FILMS AT IFFI 2025
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GRADE 10 EQUIVALENCE CERTIFICATE

A LANDMARK STEP BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GOA INTRODUCING GRADE 10 EQUIVALENCE CERTIFICATION FOR PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.







COMMISSIONER'S VISIT TO AYJNISHD

ENGAGING WITH STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT AYJNISHD TO UNDERSTAND CHALLENGES AND STRENGTHEN INCLUSIVE EDUCATION INITIATIVES.







COMMISSIONER'S VISIT TO ODISHA

STRENGTHENING GRASSROOTS INCLUSION THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN A RURAL DISABILITY CONVENTION AND VISITS TO SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND CENTRES IN ODISHA.



ZERO CONFERENCE, VIENNA

REPRESENTING GOA ON A GLOBAL PLATFORM, THE COMMISSION PARTICIPATED IN THE ZERO CONFERENCE IN VIENNA, ADVANCING INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE.



GIST OF GRIEVANCES

Date Of Order – 21/10/ 25

Name of the Parties:

Feila Silveira
V/ s
The Under Secretary legislature, secretariat

Facts Of The Case
The complainant Smt . Feila Silveira, person with 50% disability R/oH. No 437/ A CurtorimGoa filed a complaint dated 07/ 04/2025 requesting for clarification on promotion and seniority list for the Post of under Secretary Legislature.
Observations And Recommendations / Decision of SCPwDs.

Upon receipt of the complaint Notice was issued to the respondent to submit report on the issue of complainant. A reply was received from the respondent mentioning that the petitioner Smt. Feila silveira who was elevated to the position of the section officer on 20.08.2024 possesses B.com degree as on date. According to the government guidelines complainant position is fallacious and it is clear that the petitioner is not eligible for the post of under secretary legislative as per Requirement of Recruitment Rules.

After receiving the reply submitted by respondent Hearing was scheduled for 13/05/2025 at 11 am.
Feila Silveira the complainant will have to complete her qualifying period of 10 years as per the recruitment rules Quota of Non LLB Vacancy then only she may be eligible for promotion to the post of under Secretary, Legislature under non – LLB quota and on completion of 10 years of regular service.

After Hearing the complainant issue and reply of respondent the commission recommended respondent to follow the relevant recruitment and service rules also recommended respondent to make sure that discrimination of disability should not happen at work place and follow the rules laid down by the RPwD Act, 2016. Respondent shall submit compliance report within a period of three months in accordance with section 81 of RPwD Act 2016. Petition wasdisposed off with a recommendation to the respondent to follow provisions of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Date Of Order – 03/11/2025

Name of the Parties:
Adesh Naik,
R/o Ladewada Madkai,
Mardol Ponda Goa.
v/ s
The Headmaster,
Smt. Anandibai M. Naik High School,
Karanjal Madkai Ponda Goa.

The Director,
Directorate of Education,
Porvorim Goa.

Facts Of The Case:
The Complainant Shri. Adesh Naik, Person with disability filed a complaint before this commission seeking orders from this commission directing respondent to comply with the guidelines with respect to rejoining of duties and payment of salary.

Observations And Recommendations / Decision of SCPwDs.
This Commission recommended responded no. 1 the headmaster Smt. Anandibai M. Naik High School, Karanjal Madkai Ponda Goa to submit the report to the commission on the complaint given by shri. Adi Naik a person with disability

upon hearing complaint of both complainant and respondent no. 1 hearing was schedule for 31/07/20225 at 11:00 am. After hearing the complainant and respondent no. 1 the state commission directed The Directorate of Education to submit the report on this matter within 7 days. However, report was not submitted by the Directorate of Education it was directed by the State Commissioner to issue hearing notice to the directorate of Education to remain present in person for the hearing scheduled on 30/09/2025.

Upon carefull examination by the commission of the complainant matter the replies of the respondent no 1 and 2 and judgements of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the commission recommended respondent no 1 as per the rules and procedures the complainant pension should be release at the earliest.

As per the respondent no 2 it is the responsibility of the respondent no 2 to submit the pension papers any delay can lead to hardship to the complainant the Commission recommended responded no. 1 to release the order payment of the complainant at the earliest.

As per the section 81 Rpwd act 2016 respondent no. 1 must file compliance before this commission within a period of 3 months.

Date of Order: 20/01/2026

Name of the Parties:
Shri. Narayan D. Chodankar,
R/o. Piqueno Chinwar,
Anjuna, Bardez – Goa

V/s

The Headmistress,
St. Michel Convent High School,
Vagator, Bardez Goa.
Resp. I

The Director,
Directorate of Education,
Porvorim Goa,
Resp. II

Facts of the Case

This Commission observed that the complaint dated 30/09/2025 was filed by Shri. Narayan D. Chodankar, father of Master Shaunak N. Chodenkar, an 8-year-old child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) studying in Class II at St. Michel Convent High School, Vagator, Bardez–Goa. The complaint pertained to denial of inclusive education and reasonable accommodation, alleging that the Headmistress had refused to permit the child to attend regular classes with other students and had insisted that the child be kept separately, thereby denying classroom inclusion.

Observations and Recommendations / Decision of SCPwDs

After calling for replies and conducting hearings on 09/01/2026 and 20/01/2026, the Commission observed that the absence of a Special Educator and denial of classroom inclusion had adversely affected the child's right to education. The Commission further noted that appointment of Special Educators in regular schools is mandatory and not optional, and that effective administrative coordination between the school and the Directorate of Education is essential for implementation of inclusive education. The matter was examined in light of the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Rajneesh Kumar Pandey & Others v. Union of India & Others.

Accordingly, the Commission directed Respondent No. I, the Headmistress of St. Michel Convent High School, Vagator, Bardez–Goa, to appoint a Special Educator as approved by the Directorate of Education and to permit the shadow teacher engaged by the parents to accompany and support the child in the classroom, upon obtaining written undertaking by the parents.

The Commission further directed Respondent No. II, the Director of Education, to accord necessary permission to Respondent No. I for establishment of an operational Life Skills Resource Room and to issue necessary NOCs for appointment of Special Educators on a regular basis as per the prescribed ratio under the CWSN scheme from the next academic year. The complaint was disposed off with directions to both Respondents-I &-II to submit compliance reports within the stipulated period.

Date of Order: 20/01/2026

Name of the Parties:
Shri. Viraj D. Pawar
Upper Division Clerk,
Home Guard & Civil Defence Organization,
GRP, Altinho, Panaji Goa.

V/s

The Commandant General of Home Guard &
Director Civil Defence, GRP,
Altinho, Panaji Goa

Facts of the Case

The Complainant Shri Viraj D. Pawar, a Person with Disability working as an Upper Division Clerk in the Home Guard & Civil Defence Organization at Altinho, Panaji, filed a complaint before the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities requesting transfer or posting nearby Ponda, South Goa, as he resides in Ponda and faces severe hardship commuting approximately 35 km daily due to his disability.

Observations and Recommendations / Decision of SCPwDs

The complaint was forwarded to the Respondent, the Commandant General of Home Guard & Director Civil Defence, GRP, Altinho, Panaji Goa for a report. The Respondent informed that the Office of the Home Guards & Civil Defence operates only from Altinho, Panaji and does not have any branch offices in the State; hence transfer within the organization was not feasible.

During the hearing, the Complainant highlighted the hardship faced in commuting from Pondadue to his disability. The Respondent stated that they did not have authority to transfer the employee to another department. However informed that the request had been forwarded to the Under Secretary (Home), Home Department for consideration of deputation.

After examining the matter, the Commission observed that under Sections 2(y), 3 and 20 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, reasonable accommodation and non-discrimination in employment must be ensured for employees with disabilities, includingconsideration of their transfer needs to minimize hardship.

Accordingly, the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities recommended the Respondent to consider the recommending Shri Viraj D. Pawar for deputation to any suitable department in Ponda Taluka whenever such requisition arises. The Complainant was also advised to identify departments inviting deputation for the post of Upper Division Clerk and inform his parent department. The Respondent was also directed to ensure that no adverse service consequences occurs such as loss of seniority, pay, or promotional prospects arise due to such deputation, strictly follow the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and to submit a compliance report within 90 days.

Date of Order: 26/09/2025

Name of the Parties:
Shri. Silvestra Camilo Gracias,
R/o. Hno.189/1, Soncrem,
Shiroda, Ponda Goa.

V/s

1) The Secretary,
Village Panchayat Shiroda,
Ponda, Shiroda-Goa.

2) The Director,
Directorate of Panchayat,
3rd 4th & 5th floor, Myles
High,Corporate Hub,
Patto Panaji-Goa

Facts of the Case

Shri Silvestra Camilo Gracias, a person with disability residing at Shiroda, Ponda-Goa, filed a complaint dated 28/05/2025 regarding non-issuance of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) by the Secretary, Village Panchayat Shiroda, for repair of his house and compound wall. The matter was forwarded to Respondent No. 1 on 16/06/2025, directing submission of a report within 15 days. However, no response was received despite issuance of Reminder-I dated 14/07/2025 and Reminder-II dated 06/08/2025. Due to continued non-compliance, the Commission scheduled a hearing on 03/09/2025 at 03:30 PM and impleaded the Director, Directorate of Panchayat, as Respondent No. II.

Observations and Recommendations / Decision of SCPwDs.

During the hearing held on 03/09/2025, the Complainant and representatives of both Respondents were present. The matter was heard, and necessary recommendations were issued. The case was adjourned and the next hearing was scheduled on 18/09/2025 at 03:30 PM.

On 18/09/2025, all parties appeared before the Commission. The Complainant informed that permission for repair of his house had been granted on 17/09/2025. The Commission directed the Complainant to follow the prescribed procedure for obtaining permission for repair of the compound wall.
The Complainant further raised issues regarding inaccessibility of the Panchayat office and alleged misconduct by Panchayat staff. Taking serious note of the same, the Commission issued the following directions:

Respondent No.I (Secretary, Village Panchayat Shiroda) to install accessibility features, including ramps and other necessary provisions, in the Panchayat office in accordance with the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. To ensure that all Persons with Disabilities are treated with dignity and sensitivity and submit a compliance report along with photographic evidence within 90 days, i.e. on or before 18/12/2025.

Respondent No.II (Director, Directorate of Panchayat) to issue strict instructions to the Secretary, Village Panchayat Shiroda, to comply with the Circular dated 09/04/2025 regarding grant of permissions for house repairs, and ensure that proper guidance and cooperation are extended to the Complainant in matters relating to compound wall repair and any other grievances.

Date 02/12/2025

Name of the parties:

Lakit Gokuldas Naik
V/s
The Director, Directorate of Art & Culture
Sanskruti Bhavan,
Patto, Panjim-Goa.

Facts of the Case

• The complainant, Lakit Gokuldas Naik , a person with low vision, filed a complaint regarding selection to the post of Grade I through the Goa Staff Selection Commission for the Directorate of Art & Culture, Panaji. The complainant had appeared for the CBT examination, qualified successfully, and was recommended by the Goa Staff Selection Commission. However, no candidate was shortlisted under the Hard of Hearing category, and the complainant's case under the PwD category required consideration/approval.

The Respondent submitted that the complainant could be considered under the PwD category subject to approval from the Commission. Relevant provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 and Office Memorandum dated 15.01.2018 issued by Department of Personnel and Training Government of India were examined. The law mandates 4% reservation in government employment for persons with benchmark disabilities, along with provisions for carry forward and interchange of vacancies in case of non-availability of suitable candidates.

Observations and Recommendations / Decision of SCPwDs

1. The Commission observed that the provisions of the RPwD Act, 2016 and Department of Personnel and Training guidelines on reservation for persons with disabilities must be strictly followed.
2. It noted that in case of non-availability of candidates in a specific disability category, vacancies should be carried forward or interchanged among disability categories, as per rules.
3. The Respondent is advised to consider the complainant under the PwD (Low Vision) category.
4. The Respondent is directed to comply with Department of Personnel and Training Office Memorandum dated 15.01.2018 regarding reservation policy.
5. The Respondent should adopt a more empathetic approach towards candidates with disabilities and ensure that their rights are not violated.
6. The case is disposed of with a direction to the Respondent to follow the RPwDAct, 2016 in letter and spirit.
7. The Respondent must submit a compliance report within one month as per Section 81 of the RPwD Act, 2016.

Date 09/02/2026

Name of the parties: Devyani C. Naik
V/s
The Principal, St. Xaviers Academy,
Old Goa.-Goa.

Facts of the Case

• The complainant, Smt. Devyani C. Naik, filed a petition against the Principal of St. Xavier's Academy, Old Goa, alleging violation of Sections 4, 15, and 16 of the Right to Education Act, 2009 and provisions of the RPwD Act, 2016.
• The complaint pertains to her son, Master Kaveesh Naik, aged 9 years, a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (70%), who was admitted to Std. IV in July 2023 after completing all formalities.
• At the end of the academic year (29/04/2024), the complainant was informed that her son was being shifted/demoted to the Intellectual Disability (ID) Unit, which she contested.
• The Respondent school submitted that the child was admitted to the ID section with parental consent and that any change was made in the child's best interest to focus on life skills and behavioural development, not as a demotion.
• The complainant denied giving such consent, disputed the authenticity of the admission form, and alleged lack of inclusion, participation, and adequate academic support.
• The Directorate of Education, in its reply, observed that the school had violated provisions of the RTE Act, 2009, while the matter remained sub judice before the Commission.
• Hearings were conducted, and submissions/rejoinders were filed by both parties.

2. Observations and Recommendations / Decision of SCPwDs

1. The Commission observed that the RPwD Act, 2016 mandates inclusive education and reasonable accommodation, and that these are enforceable rights grounded in constitutional principles of equality, non-discrimination, and dignity.
2. It emphasized that inclusive education requires adaptation by institutions, including teaching methods, evaluation, and support systems, rather than shifting the burden onto the child.

3. The Commission also noted that minority institution status does not override obligations under the RPwD Act.
4. The Respondent school shall provide reasonable accommodation, including individualized teaching strategies, academic modifications, and support services in compliance with the RPwD Act, 2016.
5. The school shall conduct periodic reviews of the child's progress in consultation with parents and qualified professionals.
6. The Respondent is advised to provide specialized support services, including access to therapists (speech, occupational, physiotherapy) to ensure holistic development.
7. The child and caregiver retain the right to choose a suitable school where inclusive education can be effectively implemented.
8. The school and parents shall collaborate through regular review meetings to support the child's academic, social, and emotional development.
9. Minority institutions must comply with disability rights laws, and cannot deny or dilute educational rights of children with disabilities.
10. The Respondent is directed to follow the RPwD Act, 2016 in letter and spirit.

Case No. 08/Comm-PwDs/2025-26/371 **Date of Order:** 01/12/2025

Name of the Parties: Shri. Amit Sunil Tambe,
R/o. Hno- 561, Opposite Goa
Shipyard ltd, Vaddem,
Vasco Goa.

V/s

The General Manager, (HR & A)
Goa Shipyard Limited,
Vasco-Da-Gama.

Facts of the Case

The Complainant, Shri. Amit Sunil Tambe, a Person with 48% Locomotor Disability and an employee of Goa Shipyard Limited, filed a complaint dated 15/07/2025 alleging harassment, continuous discrimination, and mental stress at his workplace.

The Complainant further contended that the infrastructure and working environment at Goa Shipyard Limited are not accessible for employees with disabilities, resulting in hardship in the discharge of official duties. It was alleged that such lack of accessibility amounts to non-compliance with the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the Government of India's prescribed norms for barrier-free access and inclusive workplaces

Observations and Recommendations / Decision of SCPwDs.

After receipts of replies from both the parties, this Commission conducted hearing on 21/11/2025,the Complainant submitted that most of his grievances have been resolved by the Respondent, the Goa Shipyard Limited, Vasco-Da-Gama and expressed satisfaction with the steps taken so far. The remaining concerns pertain to (i) grant of entitled leave benefits to Persons with Disabilities and (ii) provision of a suitable and accessible workplace. The Respondent assured the Commission that Goa Shipyard Limited is committed to providing reasonable accommodation to employees with disabilities in accordance with the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Accordingly, this Commission directs and recommends the Respondent, the Goa Shipyard Limited, Vasco Da Gama-Goa, shall ensure provision of reasonable accommodation to all employees with disabilities as mandated under Sections 2(y), 3 and 20 of the RPwD Act, 2016, including allocation of suitable and accessible workplaces. The respondent shall further Grant 12 (Twelve) Casual Leave and 4 (Four) Special Leave per calendar year to employees with disabilities, in addition to other admissible leave benefits, in accordance with the Office Memorandum dated 19/11/2008 issued by the Government of India (DoPT). The Complainant shall cooperate with the Respondent and, in case of any future grievance, approach the designated Grievance Redressal Officer of Goa Shipyard Limited.

The Respondent shall conduct periodic sensitization and disability awareness programmes for officers, supervisory staff, and employees to promote an inclusive and barrier-free workplace. The complaint was disposed off with directions to the Respondent and shall submit a compliance report within 90 days from the receipt of this Order.

MEDIA CLIPPING

दिव्यांग विद्यार्थ्यां मदीं सर्जनशीलता, उद्देजकी कुशळटायेचें दर्शन

संजय सेंटराच्या विद्यार्थ्यांच्यो तंत्रांच्या आदारान पर्यावरणपुरक गणपती मुर्ती

भांगरभूंय | खबरां मेज

पणजी : दिव्यांग व्यक्तींक घटमुत करपाच्या दिकेन एक म्हत्वपुर्ण पावल उबारला. पर्वरी संजय विशेश शिक्षण केंद्रांतल्या विद्यार्थ्यांच्या सर्जनशीलतेची तोखणाय समाज कल्याण आनी दिव्यागंजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाचे मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाय हांणी केलें. शिक्षक आनी पालकांनी तांच्या कलात्मक प्रतिभेक चालना दिवपा खातीर तांकां प्रेरीत करपाच्या यत्नान तांची तोखणाय केली. पणजेंतल्या बालभवन संस्थेच्या सहकार्यान म्हापश्यां कलाकिर्ती संस्थे वरवीं आयोजीत केलल्या गणपती मुर्ती तयार करपाच्या कार्यशाळेंत समारोप सुवाळ्यांत मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाय हाजीर आशिल्ले.

9 ते 12 ऑक्टोबर 2025 मजगतीं, जावपी आंतर राष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट गोंय-2025 विद्यार्थ्यांक लायक्क स्ट्रीट वर्कस्टेशन वरवीं तांची कुशळटाय दाखोवपाची संद उपलब्ध करून दिवपाची सुचोवणी ह्या वेळार राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकार हांणी केल्ली. परंपरीक शिक्षण पैवक शकना अश्या दिव्यांग व्यक्तीं खातीर मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत हांच्या नेतृत्वा खाला गोंय माध्यमीक आनी उच्च माध्यमीक शिक्षण मंडळ हे वेवसायीक समतुल्यता प्रमाणपत्र सादर केलें. कार्यक्रमीक प्रेरणा पावसकार हांणी वेवकार दिली.

संजय सेंटर फॉरस स्पेशल एज्युकेशनाच्या विद्यार्थ्यांनी शाडू मातेय पसून पर्यावरणपुरक गणपती मुर्ती तयार करून प्रतिभेचो तांक दाखयली. बालभवन केंद्र-पणजे प्रशिक्षकांच्या मार्गदर्शना खाला, विद्यार्थ्यांची नांवां तंत्रांचो अवलंब केला आनी परंपरीक विधींचे पालन करून मुर्ती घडयल्यात. पयले फलवट गणपतीच्यो मुर्ती संजय सेंटर-पर्वरी विक्रेते खातीर उपलब्ध केल्यात. दरेक 2 हजाराच्यो मुर्ती विकत घेवन दिव्यांग विद्यार्थ्यांच्या कलागुणांक प्रोत्साहन दिवचें अशे आव्हान संजय सेंटर पर्वरीच्या वेवस्थापन मंडळान केला.

ह्या वेळार मानेस्तां मदीं संजय स्कुलाचे लेखा अधिकारी पावलो रॉड्रिग्ज, बालभवनाचे प्रेमानंद कुंभार, संजय स्कुलाचे मुख्याध्यापक तातू कुडाळकार हांचो आमपाव आशिल्लो. शिक्षिका रंजीता नार्वेकार, दीपेश शेटकार, संजय मांद्रेकार आनी रवी हरमलकार हांणी प्रशिक्षण सहाय्य प्रदान केलें. श्वेता हरमलकार हांणी कार्यक्रमीचें सुत्रसंचालन केलें आनी उपकार मानलें.



मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत हांकां गणपतीची मुर्ती भेटयतना विद्यार्थी आनी शिक्षक.

Partnership reflects commitment to advancing rights of PwDs: UN official

Brochure of event to be held in October released in New Delhi

NT Reporter
Panaji

The brochure for the forthcoming International Purple Fest Goa 2025, scheduled to take place from October 9 to 12 in Goa, was released at a special event at the UN House in New Delhi. The release was led by Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator for India, in the presence of Deputy Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Praveen Ambastha, Minister for Social Welfare Subhash Phal Dessai, and Goa State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar.

Speaking at the event, Sharp said, "The United Nations is honoured to join hands with the government of Goa and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to support the International Purple Fest. This partnership reflects our shared commitment to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities by promoting universal design, removing barriers, and co-creating inclusive and resilient communities where every individual can thrive."



Praveen Ambastha, Deputy Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities; Radhika Kaul Batra, RCO, Chief of Staff; Subhash Phal Dessai, Minister for Social Welfare, Government of Goa; Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator for India; and Guruprasad Pawaskar, Goa State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, releasing the brochure.

This year's festival is being organised in collaboration with the UN and will celebrate diverse abilities under the theme 'Universal Design.'

Minister for Social Welfare Subhash Phal Dessai expressed pride in the growing stature of the event. "The International Purple Fest has become a symbol of Goa's and India's commitment to inclusion. This collaboration with the UN is a proud moment for us, as we reaffirm that accessibility is not a privilege but a right."

The brochure launch also marked the unveiling of key highlights for the fest, which include participation from globally renowned speakers, leading NGOs, and discussions centred on best practices and inclusive policy frameworks from around the world.

Armenia's FM Sargis crowned IPCA World Chess Champion

Team Herald
sports@herald-goa.com

DONA PAULA: FM Sargissyan Sargis of Armenia secured gold to emerge champion in the 24th World International Physically Disabled Chess Association (IPCA) Chess Championship 2025 held at the International Centre, here, on Thursday.

Playing on Board 2, FM Sargissyan Sargis (2205) of Armenia defeated FM Valenta Vit Vaclav (2106) of Czech Republic in a Guico Piano opening in 47 moves to clinch the title scoring 7.5 points out of 9.

On Board 1, IM Molenda Marcin (2376) of Poland drew with FM Liplin Llia (2161) of Russia in 22 moves in a Catalan opening encounter to be on 7 points each. IM Molenda Marcin won the silver medal.

On Board 3, FM Ayapov Alimzhan (1994) of Kazakhstan defeated IM Gurbanov Andrei (2291) of Israel in a London system opening through an impressive sacrifice in the 19th move upon which, IM Gurbanov resigned on the 22nd move. Ayapov Alimzham scored 7 points and won the bronze medal.

FM Liplin Llia and Anfinogenov Artem both of FIDE also scored 7 points each and were placed 4th and 5th respectively.

HERALD PIC



FM Sargissyan Sargis of Armenia is being presented the gold medal by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant in the presence of Minister for Social Welfare and Organising Chairman of IPCA World Chess Championship Subhash Phal Dessai, Commissioner, State Commission for Persons with Disabilities IM Andrei Gurbanov; IPCA President, Chief Arbiter Alon Shulman, Organising Secretary Kishor Bandekar and President of Goa Chess Association for Persons with Disabilities Sanjay Belurkar and other dignitaries at the International Centre, here, on Thursday

24TH WORLD INTERNATIONAL IPCA CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

In his address, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said, "This tournament is keeping the State government's focus on inclusivity and is happy that Goa could host the 24th IPCA Chess Championship, which is being conducted for the first time in Asia."He invited all players to visit Goa for Purple Fest in October.

Earlier on Sunday, the Chief Minister had hosted dinner for the players at Taj Cidade Goa Heritage where the players enjoyed the evening.

During the prize distribution ceremony, a special prize was given by the Chief Minister to Eshmuratov Abbas of Uzbekistan, whose disability was to the extent that he could play only with movement of eye retina.

Minister for Social Welfare Subhash Phal Dessai, who is also the organising Chairman, gave away the prizes. Prizes were also given by IPCA President IM Andrei Garbanov, Chief Arbiter Alon Shulman, Commissioner of State Commission for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar, Director, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) Varsha Naik; Secretary, Commission for Persons with DisabilitiesTaha Haaziq; Deputy Director, DEPwD, Mriselda Monteiro and Organising Secretary of the Championship Kishor Bandekar.

Overall in team medals, FIDE flag countries comprising Russia and Belarus won 21 medals with 12 gold medals and were placed first. India also won 21 medals but won five gold and so were placed second. Kazhakistan with nine medals including two gold were placed third.

In the men's wheelchair category, Glazar Domagoj of Croatia, IM Obodchuk Andrei of FIDE, Maikenov Bakytzhan of Kazhakistan, while in the women's wheelchair category Khlypovka Lada of FIDE, Tran Thi Bich Thuy of Vietnam and Mehta Charvi of India won the gold, silver and bronze medal respectively.

The medals were also presented to the U-20 boys and girls and U-15 boys and girls winners.

Top seeds shine on Day 2 at World IPCA Chess

Team Herald
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PANJIM: International Master (IM) Molenda Marcin of Poland continued his winning streak to remain in joint lead on Day 2 of the 24th World IPCA (International Physically Disabled Chess Association) Individual Chess Championship, as fierce contests and emotional moments unfolded at the International Centre Goa, Dona Paula.

Marcin, the tournament's top seed, defeated Gayimnazarov Bahadir of Uzbekistan in a commanding 37-move game with the black pieces, employing the Sicilian Defence on the top board. On board two, FIDE Master (FM) Sargissyan Sargis of Armenia prevailed over Kishinbyeger Mijgee of Mongolia, while on board three, FM Lipilin Ilia of FIDE outplayed Doan Thu Huyen of Vietnam in a closely fought encounter.

At the end of Round 2, 15 players lead with a perfect score of 2 points. Among them are four Indian contenders — Ezhilarasi G, Vaibhav Gautam, FM Venkata Krishna Karthik K, and Parmarthi Audietya Azadh — alongside six FIDE players: Anfinogenov Artem, FM Liplin Ilia, Zakharova Evgeniya, Alekseev Mikhail, Gedgafov Chamal, and Dzenisenia Mikhail. The joint leaders also include Ayapov Alimzhan and Maikenov Bakytzhan from Kazakhstan, IM Molenda Marcin (Poland), FM Sargissyan Sargis (Armenia), and Ergashev Ilkhom (Uzbekistan).

HERALD PIC



Eshmuratov Abbas of Uzbekistan, who makes his moves using eye retina movements, in action at the 24th World IPCA (International Physically Disabled Chess Association) Individual Chess Championship

Beyond the battles on the board, the day was marked by moments of inspiration that captured the true spirit of the championship — ability beyond disability. Among the most moving stories was that of Eshmuratov Abbas from Uzbekistan, who plays by indicating his moves through the movement of his eye retina. His participation and determination drew admiration from spectators and fellow players alike, serving as a powerful reminder of the unifying and transformative power of sport.

Top seed stumbles, FIDE duo takes lead at World IPCA 2025

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The third day of the 24th World IPCA (International Physically Disabled Chess Association) Individual Chess Championship 2025 saw a shift in momentum as the top seed, IM Molenda Marcin of Poland, was held to a draw by Ayapov Alimzhan of Kazakhstan in a gripping fourth-round encounter. The result leaves Marcin on 3.5 points as the race for the top position intensifies.

Taking the lead at the end of Round 4 are FM Liplin Llia and Dzenisenia Mikhail, both representing FIDE, with a perfect score of 4 points each. Breathing down their necks are a formidable group tied at 3.5 points, which includes IM Molenda Marcin (Poland), FM Sargissyan Sargis (Armenia), Ayapov Alimzhan (Kazakhstan), Glazar Domagoj (Croatia), and IM Obodchuk Andrei (FIDE). In addition to the main rounds, the much-awaited Blitz Tournament also commenced today, adding a dose of high-speed excitement to the championship.



Russian player Khlypovka, Lada representing RDE was allowed to play in her room by Arbiters due to medical conditions.

In a touching moment that exemplifies the spirit of inclusion and empathy, the organizing committee and arbiters allowed Khlypovka Lada of FIDE (Russia), who faced medical complications, to play her game from her room. The gesture drew praise and admiration from players and officials alike, underscoring the event's commitment to accessibility and care.

IM Marcin wins gold medal

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

International Master (IM) Molenda Marcin of Poland claimed the gold medal in the open category at the 24th World IPCA Rapid Chess Championship 2025, held at the International Centre Goa.



Top finishers IM Molenda Marcin, Ayapov Alimzham and FM Valenta Vit Vaclav are presented with medals.

WORLD IPCA RAPID CHESS

Marcin dominated the Rapid section, scoring an impressive 8 points out of 9 rounds, finishing one point ahead of Ayapov Alimzhan of Kazakhstan, who secured the silver medal with 7 points. FM Valenta Vit Vaclav of the Czech Republic also finished on 7 points but was awarded the bronze.

In the women's category, Poland's Leszner Liliana took home the gold, while Russia's Zakharova Evgeniya and Mongolia's Khishigbayar Mijgee won the silver and bronze medals, respectively.

In the wheelchair categories, Russia's IM Obodchuk Andrei triumphed in the Men's category, followed by India's Vaibhav Gautam (silver) and Russia's Alekseev Mikhail (bronze). In the Women's wheelchair section, India's Dirkasri M claimed the gold, while compatriot Sharon Aby won silver and Vietnam's Tran Thi Bich Thuy took home the bronze.

Medals were also awarded in the Under-20 and Under-15 boys' and girls' categories, with India securing a total of 9 medals from the 24 medals presented. The competition continues with the standard section, following a rest day.



जागतिक दिव्यांगजन बुद्धिबळात ब्लिट्झमधील विजेत्या लिपलिन लिया याला सुवर्णपदक प्रदान करताना किशोर बांदेकर. सोबत भारतसिंग चौहान, अलोन शुलमन, संजय बेलुरकर व मान्यवर.

ब्लिट्झ बुद्धिबळात लिपलिन विजेता

पणजी (क्रीडा प्रतिनिधी) : जागतिक दिव्यांगजन (आयपीसीए) बुद्धिबळ स्पर्धेच्या ब्लिट्झ विभागात रशियन फिडे मास्टर लिया लिपलिन याने विजेतेपद पटकावले. अंगोलाचा इंटरनॅशनल मास्टर युजेनियो कँपोस उपविजेता ठरला. कझाकस्तानचा फिडे मास्टर सेरिक सोल्तानोव ब्रॉंझपदकाचा मानकरी ठरला. स्पर्धा दोना पावला येथे सुरू आहे. लिपलिन याने नऊ फेऱ्यांत अपराजित राहताना सात विजय व दोन बरोबरींसह सर्वाधिक आठ गुणांची कमाई केली. कँपोस व सोल्तानोव यांचे समान सात गुण झाले. टायब्रेकर गुणांत त्यांना अनुक्रमे दुसरा व तिसरा क्रमांक प्राप्त झाला. स्पर्धेच्या स्टँडर्ड गटात 'फिडे'चे प्रतिनिधित्व करणारा रशियन मिकाईल झेनिसेनिया सर्व पाचही डाव जिंकून अव्वल स्थानी आहे. पोलंडचा इंटरनॅशनल मास्टर अव्वल मानांकित मार्सिन मोलेंडा साडेचार गुणांसह दुसऱ्या, तर लिपलिन लिया चार गुणांसह तिसऱ्या क्रमांकावर आहे.

IM Molenda, Indian contingent among leaders after Round 2

Uzbek player using eye movements inspires everyone at IPCA World Chess Championship

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The second day of the 24th World IPCA (International Physically Disabled Chess Association) Individual Chess Championship witnessed an impressive display of skill and strategy as top-seeded players asserted their dominance in Round 2 of this prestigious tournament being hosted for the first time in Asia, on Wednesday.

International Master (IM) Molenda Marcin of Poland, the tournament's top seed, continued his winning momentum by defeating Gayimnazarov Bahadir of Uzbekistan in a commanding 37-move battle with the black pieces, employing the Sicilian Defence on the top board.

On the second board, FIDE Master (FM) Sargissyan Sargis of Armenia triumphed over Khishigbayer Mijgee of Mongolia, while on board three, FM Lipilin Ilia of FIDE outplayed Doan Thu Huyen of Vietnam in a tightly contested match.

At the end of Round 2, a total of 15 players lead with a perfect score of 2 points.

This includes four Indian players — Ezhilarasi G, Vaibhav Gautam, FM Venkata Krishna Karthik K., and Parmarthi Audietya Azadh — alongside six FIDE players: Anfinogenov Artem, FM Lipilin Ilia, Zakharova Evgeniya, Alekseev Mikhail, Gedgafov Chamal, and Dzenisenia Mikhail. Also in joint lead are Ayapov Alimzhan and Muikenov Bakytzhan from Kazakhstan, IM Molenda Marcin (Poland), FM Sargissyan Sargis (Armenia), and Ergashev Ilkhom (Uzbekistan).



Eshmuratov Abbas from Uzbekistan who plays by indication of moves through movement of eye retina.

Beyond competitive spirit, the day was marked by emotional and inspiring moments that highlighted the essence of the championship — celebrating ability beyond disability. One of the most heart-touching stories was that of Eshmuratov Abbas from Uzbekistan, who is participating in the tournament by using only eye-retina movements to control the board.

His presence and determination have captivated spectators and inspired fellow participants, reminding everyone of the true spirit of resilience and the unifying power of sport.

The 24th World IPCA Chess Championship continues till July 31, 2025, at the International Centre Goa, with 97 participants from 17 countries competing in this landmark event supported by the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, and the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa.

Scheme on cards to train PwDs in making religious idols

Phal Dessai announces interim financial aid

NT Reporter
Panaji

Minister for Social Welfare and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Subhash Phal Dessai, on Monday said that a scheme will soon be formulated under Skill Development for persons with disabilities (PwDs) to make idols of Ganesh, Saraswati and Laxmi. The scheme will be designed to support skill development of persons with disabilities in idol-making.

He was speaking as Chief Guest at the valedictory function of a Ganesh idol-making workshop held at Sanjay Centre for Special Education, Porvorim on Monday.

"Till the scheme is formulated, I will try to give Rs 3,000 as financial aid to each artist-student for making idols of Goddess Saraswati and Goddess Laxmi," said Phal Dessai, adding that the idols would be donated to nearby schools during Saraswati Puja and Laxmi Puja celebrations.



For the first time, these idols are available for sale at Sanjay Centre, Porvorim, at a price of Rs 2,000 each.

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar said such talented students could participate in live street workshops during the upcoming Purple Festival, scheduled from October 9 to 12.

He also said the Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education would introduce Vocational Equivalency Certificates for persons with disabilities who are unable to pursue conventional academics.

The workshop was conducted by Mapusa Kalakriti in association with Bal Bhavan, Panaji, and ten students participated.

"This year, the Ganesh idols made during the workshop are being sold, making the initiative more commercial," Prerna Pawaskar of Mapusa Kalakriti said.

For the first time, these idols are available for sale at Sanjay Centre, Porvorim, at a price of Rs 2,000 each.

Goa police undergo first awareness prog on PwD rights

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

In a first-of-its-kind sensitisation and awareness training on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, more than 650 police personnel underwent a four-day program, with senior Goa police officials admitting that such an initiative was long overdue.

Personnel from the State Police Control Room, Traffic Police and Pink Force were trained in batches during the sessions themed "Inclusive Policing for a Barrier-Free Goa". The programme covered legal rights, accessibility, communication techniques and social perspectives on disability.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Varsha Sharma stressed that sensitisation was essential for every police officer. "We are all equal. We learn in the same schools, live in the same society. It is our duty to support persons with disabilities, even in our busiest schedules," she said, addressing the personnel on the concluding day of the programme.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Roy Pereira pointed out that with over five percent of Goa's population living with disabilities, equipping police officers with such skills was "a necessity long overdue."

Senior officials emphasised the need to extend the training to taluka-level police stations across the State. They said the initiative set a national example, positioning Goa as a leader in barrier-free policing that upholds the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.

Secretary to the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Taha Haaziq, noted that Goa is the first state in the country to publish a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for police on interacting with persons with disabilities.

"The training was highly interactive, and participants found it much-needed. It gave them new insights and confidence to handle real-life situations," he said.

'इन्क्लुझिव पोलिसिंग' आनी दिव्यांगजन अधिकार कायद्या विशीं गोंय पुलिसां खातीर पयलें प्रशिक्षण



Goa welcomes world for 24th IPCA Chess Championship

TEN-DAY EVENT CELEBRATES INTELLECT AND INCLUSION AS TOP DIFFERENTLY-ABLED CHESS PLAYERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD COMPETE IN DONA PAULA

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

Goa marked a momentous occasionwith the inauguration of the 24th World IPCA (International Physically Disabled Chess Association) Individual Chess Championship 2025, being held from July 21 to 31 at the International Centre Goa, Dona Paula. This international championshipbrings together the world's finest chess players with physical disabilities, showcasing extraordinary intellect, determination, and resilience.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with a warm welcome to participants, dignitaries, and guests, celebrating not just the game of chess but the indomitable spirit of the players. The evening opened with a soulful cultural performance by the talented young individuals from Astha Anand Niketan, setting a vibrant and inclusive tone for the event.

The event was graced by several esteemed dignitaries including Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant, who delivered the inaugural address. In his speech, Dr. Sawant lauded the players for their courage and called the championship "a shining example of inclusion, empowerment, and the true power of the human spirit."

Delivering the welcome address was Varsha Naik, Director of Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities, who extended heartfelt greetings to the international participants and emphasized Goa's commitment to inclusive sports and accessibility.

Anand Salvi, Secretary of CFPD and FIDE Councillor, and Andrei Gurbanov, President of IPCA, addressed the gathering, acknowledging the championship as a platform that unites nations through strategy, intellect, and sportsmanship. Prasanna Acharya, Secretary of the Department of Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities delivered impactful messages on the importance of equal opportunities and the transformative role of sports for persons with disabilities.

Speaking on the occasion, Guru Pawaskar, State Commissioner For Persons with Disabilities, stated "It is a matter of great pride for Goa to host the 24th World IPCA Individual Chess Championship 2025. This prestigious event brings together not just some of the finest minds in chess, but also inspiring stories of resilience, determination, and inclusion. We are honoured to welcome players from across the globe to our beautiful state, and we stand committed to supporting equal opportunities for all, both in sport and in society."



> "It is a matter of great pride for Goa to host the 24th World IPCA Individual Chess Championship 2025. This prestigious event brings together not just some of the finest minds in chess, but also inspiring stories of resilience, determination, and inclusion. We are honoured to welcome players from across the globe to our beautiful state, and we stand committed to supporting equal opportunities for all, both in sport and in society." —*Guru Pawaskar*, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities

The event also featured the Award Ceremony to felicitate outstanding achievers, followed by addresses from Ashok Dhvan Chand, Guest of Honour, and Subhash Phal Dessai, Organising Chairman, both of whom commended the players and praised Goa's role as a host of such a significant global event.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks by Taha Hanzig, Secretary to the Commission for Persons with Disabilities, expressing gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and organizing teams for their unwavering support.

As the championship unfolds over the coming days, it promises not only intense competition on the chessboard but also powerful stories of perseverance, inclusion, and global camaraderie.

100 elite disabled players to feature at World Chess in Goa

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Panaji: A total of 100 elite chess players from more than 20 countries are expected to take part in the 24th World IPCA (International Physically Disabled Chess Association) Individual Chess Championship in Dona Paula from Monday.

The tournament celebrates inclusivity and competitive spirit and has attracted players from Russia, Israel, Poland, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Germany, South Africa, UAE, Sri Lanka, and others.

Positioned as part of Goa's 'Purple Fest', the championship dovetails with the state's mission to empower persons with disabilities through inclusive platforms. Organisers have described the event as a "unifying and empowering force," championing accessible global sporting excellence.



The 23rd IPCA World Individual Chess Championship 2024 was held in Gyumri, Armenia, last year

The tournament is jointly organised by the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt of Goa, State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa Chess Association for Persons with Disabilities, and the Chess Federation for Physically Disabled. Social welfare minister Subhash Phal Dessai is the chairman of the organising committee.

Notable international participants include IM Gurbanov Andrei (Israel), FM Molenda Marcin (Poland), FM Severino Sander (Philippines), IM Obodchuk Andrei (FIDE), FM Vit Vaclav Valenta (Czech Republic), besides India's CM Samarth Rao and FM Venkata Krishna Karthick, the reigning Asian Para Champion.

Rao was selected to represent India in Goa following his second-place finish at the 5th National Chess Championship for Specially Abled Players in June.

Three best federations overall, by ranking medals collected in all categories among men, women, juniors and girls, will receive trophies. For ranking, the number of gold medals will be considered first, and if there is a tie, then the number of silver medals, and if there is still a tie, the number of bronze medals will be added.

Goa gears up to host 24th IPCA World Chess C'ship

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

In a landmark celebration of inclusivity and competitive spirit, Goa is set to host the 24th World IPCA (International Physically Disabled Chess Association) Individual Chess Championship 2025, from July 21 to 31 at the prestigious International Centre Goa, Dona Paula.

The event is jointly organised by the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa , the Goa Chess Association for Persons with Disabilities (GCAPD), and the Chess Federation for Physically Disabled (CFPD) under the national umbrella of the All-India Chess Federation (AICF), with key support from FIDE, the Asian Chess Federation, and Sports Authority of India. Subhash Phal Dessai, Minister for Social Welfare Government of Goa, who is chairman of the organising committee, along with senior officials from the Department and State Commission and executive team of GCAPD and CFPD and IA Alon Shulman (Chief Arbiter) are steering the event's execution.

The tournament is expected to bring together over 100 elite competitors from 20+ countries, including Russia, Israel, Poland, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Germany, South Africa, UAE, Sri Lanka, and several others.

Notable international participants include IM Gurbanov Andrei (Israel), FM Molenda Marcin (Poland), FM Severino Sander (Philippines), IM Obodchuk Andrei (FIDE), FM Vit Vaclav Valenta (Czech Republic), as well as India's rising stars like CM Samarth Rao and FM Venkata Krishna Karthick, the reigning Asian Para Champion.

The inclusivity extends across men, women, juniors, and girls, with an aggregate team trophy awarded to the top three federations based on medal tallies prioritized by gold, silver, and bronze counts.

The tournament offers a total prize fund of USD 15,000.

Fresh off his unbeaten 7 point performance at the 5th National Chess Championship for Specially Abled Players in June, where he secured runner up status, CM Samarth J. Rao has earned selection to represent India in Goa. His consistent excellence, national titles in 2022 and 2024 adds a compelling narrative to the event.

Goa Purple transcends chess to symbolise empowerment and ability. Positioned as part of Goa's 'Purple Fest', the championship with the state's mission to empower persons with disabilities through inclusive platforms.

दिव्यांगांसाठी अत्याधुनिक यंत्रणा

मुख्यमंत्री : 'आस्था'चे खोर्ली-म्हापसा येथे उद्घाटन

बादेंश, ता. ४ (प्रतिनिधी) : आपल्या सरकारने दिव्यांगांसाठी खास मंत्रालय सुरू केले. दिव्यांग व्यक्तींसाठी अत्याधुनिक यंत्रणेचा वापर केला जाईल, असे मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत यांनी सांगितले.



म्हापसा : 'चिरंतन' स्मरणिकेचे प्रकाशन करताना मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत. सोबत मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, खासदार सदानंद शेट तानावडे, पद्मश्री दीपा मलिक, गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, चंद्रशेखर केळकर व इतर. (प्रकाश धुमाळ)

आस्था आनंद निकेतन या नवीन सेंटरचे खोर्ली-म्हापसा येथे उद्घाटन केल्यावर मुख्यमंत्री बोलत होते. यावेळी त्यांच्यासमवेत समाजकल्याण मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, म्हापशाचे आमदार तथा उपसभापती ज्योशुआ डिसोझा, राज्यसभा खासदार सदानंद शेट तानावडे, पद्मश्री डॉ. दीपा मलिक, गुरुदास पावसकर, सिद्देश कोटकर, डॉ. चंद्रशेखर केळकर व इतर मान्यवर उपस्थित होते.

कार्यक्रमादरम्यान मुख्यमंत्र्यांनी 'चिरंतन' या कार्यक्रमाच्या स्मरणिकेचे प्रकाशन केले आणि दीपा मलिक यांच्या प्रेरणादायी आत्मचरित्र 'ब्रिंग इट ऑन'ची प्रत स्वीकारली. त्यांनी मलिक यांच्या प्रवासाचे कौतुक केले. यावेळी गुरुदास पावसकर व प्रा. अनिल सामंत यांनी संस्थेविषयी माहिती करून दिली. स्वागत व प्रास्ताविक अध्यक्ष सिद्देश कोटकर, सूत्रसंचालन डॉ. चंद्रशेखर केळकर यांनी केले. यावेळी मान्यवरांच्या हस्ते या संस्थेची इमारत लवकर तयार व्हावी तसेच आर्थिक मदत केलेल्यांचा मंत्र्यांतर्फे सन्मान करण्यात आला. यावेळी पद्मश्री डॉ. दीपा मलिक यांनी त्यांना बक्षीस रूपाने मिळालेले २१ हजार रुपये 'आस्था' संस्थेला दिले.

'पर्पल फेस्ट' : संकल्पाचे प्रतीक

■ आस्था केंद्र गोव्यातील दिव्यांगजन समुदायासाठी तयार केलेल्या कौशल्य विकास, शिक्षण आणि समर्थन सेवा प्रदान करेल. 'पर्पल फेस्ट' हा विविधता साजरी करण्याच्या आणि सर्व नागरिकांना सक्षम करण्याच्या आपल्या संकल्पाचे प्रतीक बनला आहे. पंतप्रधान नरेंद्र मोदी यांनी त्यांच्या 'मन की बात' भाषणात आणि इतर राष्ट्रीय व्यासपीठांवर आमच्या प्रयत्नांची दखल घेतली आहे, हे आनंददायी आहे, असे मुख्यमंत्री म्हणाले.

'दिव्यांगांसाठी सुलभ आरोग्य सेवा' उपक्रम

राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालय, संगत यांच्यातर्फे जागृती कार्यशाळा



पणजी : दिव्यांग बांधवांसाठी आयोजित कार्यशाळेत सहभागी गुरुदास पावसकर, वर्षा नाईक, आरेष नाईक, अभिजित मुरुगकर, डॉ. सत्येंद्र सिंह व इतर.

प्रतिनिधी
पणजी

राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाच्या सहकार्याने आणि संगत इंडियाची आयहियर ॲक्सेस मॅटर्स प्रकल्पांतर्गत गोव्यात दिव्यांग व्यक्तींसाठी 'अधिक सुलभ आरोग्यसेवा' या विषयावर एक दिवसीय जागृती कार्यशाळा घेण्यात आली. रुग्णालयांचे प्रशासकीय अधिकारी आणि प्रमुख भागधारक यांना एकत्र आणून या उपक्रमातून दिव्यांग व्यक्तींसाठीच्या आरोग्य गरजांबाबत जागीवनिर्मिती आणि क्षमताबांधणी करण्याचा उद्देश होता. राज्यभरातील सार्वजनिक आरोग्य सुविधांमधील सेवासुलभतेतील अंतर भरून काढणे हा या उपक्रमाचा हेतू होता.

या कार्यशाळेचे उद्घाटन राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुदास पावसकर, दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाच्या संचालिका श्रीमती वर्षा नाईक आणि संगत संस्थेचे चेअरमन आरेष नाईक यांच्या उपस्थितीत झाले.

गोव्यातील ११ सरकारी रुग्णालयांमध्ये केलेल्या सुलभता ऑडिटमधील निष्कर्षांचे सादरीकरण राज्य दिव्यांगजनआयुक्त कार्यालय, संगत आणि डिझाइनब्रिज फाउंडेशन यांच्या सहकार्याने राबवलेल्या या ऑडिट उपक्रमाचे उद्दिष्ट राज्यातील आरोग्यसेवा-सुविधा यांचे दिव्यांग व्यक्तींसाठीची सुलभता याचे मूल्यांकन करणे आणि त्यामध्ये सुधारणा शिफारशी सादर करणे हे होते.

डिझाइनब्रिज फाउंडेशनचे अभिजित मुरुगकर यांनी सांगितले, आपले सहकारी तसेच आपल्या समोवतालच्या लोकांमध्ये दिव्यांग व्यक्तींसाठी आवश्यक सुलभ आरोग्यसेवेबाबत जागिव निर्मिती करणे, ही महत्त्वाची प्राथमिकता आहे. दुपारच्या सत्रात 'आरोग्यसेवेमधील दिव्यांगत्वाचे प्रत्यक्ष अनुभव' या विषयावर चर्चासत्राचे आयोजन केले गेले. सूत्रसंचालन डॉ. सत्येंद्र सिंह यांनी केले. चर्चासत्रामध्ये विशांत नागवेकर, महादेव सावंत, श्रीमती जमिला हाजिक, राहुल कुंकळयेकर आणि श्रीमती अनुष्का रिर्के या वक्त्यांचा समावेश होता.

डॉ. सिंह म्हणाले, सुलभता ही केवळ पायाभूत सुविधांपुरती मर्यादित नाही, तर ती प्रतिष्ठा, समानता आणि काळजी घेण्याच्या अधिकाराबद्दल आहे.

समाज आणि सरकार यांच्यातील सहयोगी प्रयत्न बळकट करणे, वाढवणे या दिशेने एक उपयुक्त पाऊल या उपक्रमातून उचलले गेले आहे, असेही ते म्हणाले.

18 Jun 2025 - Page 6

Goa Launches Landmark Disability-Inclusive Internship Program in Luxury Hospitality Sector

Team Goemkarponn



Panaji: In a pioneering move to promote inclusive employment, the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities joined hands with The St. Regis Goa Resort and Inclusion Consultant Mr. Elrin Fernandes to launch Goa's first Disability-Inclusive Internship Program, offering structured and meaningful internships to over 11 young adults with disabilities across the state.

The culmination ceremony, held at The St. Regis Goa Resort, was attended by dignitaries including Mr. Taha Haziq, Secretary – Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities; Mr. Tatu Kudalkar, Headmaster – Sanjay Centre for Special Education; Mr. Satish Kumar, General Manager – The St. Regis Goa Resort; Mrs. Dorin Mascarenhas, HR Manager – The St. Regis Goa Resort; Mr. Amit Malhotra, Hotel Manager – The St. Regis Goa Resort; and Mr. Elrin Fernandes, the program's Inclusion Consultant.

The program's design reflects a deep commitment to community engagement and early intervention. It began 18 months before student graduation, with partnerships formed with Sanjay Centre for Special Education and other local NGOs to identify eligible candidates. Participants underwent over 30 hours of customized workshops, mock interviews, and vocational training, preparing them to integrate into the professional workspace with confidence and capability.

Spearheaded by Mr. Fernandes, the program was developed through extensive fieldwork and stakeholder input. His coordination with families, community-based organizations (CSOs), panchayats, and schools ensured that the initiative reflected Goa's unique socio-cultural fabric.

The result: a replicable, community-centered framework for inclusive employment that can be adopted across industries. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Taha Haziq emphasized the alignment of the program with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, stating, "This program is a testament to how people-first leadership in the hospitality sector can create dignified employment pathways.

By embedding inclusion into a globally recognized brand like The St. Regis Goa Resort, we're proving that accessibility and excellence are not mutually exclusive—they must go hand in hand. This initiative is a significant step in dismantling systemic employment barriers for persons with disabilities in Goa."

Echoing this sentiment, Mr. Satish Kumar, General Manager of the resort, added, "Inclusion for us isn't a checkbox—it's a core part of our identity. From welcoming guests to onboarding interns, our mission is the same: to create an environment of respect, warmth, and opportunity. This initiative strengthens our belief that inclusive hospitality is simply better hospitality."

A standout feature of the program is its strong gender-inclusive approach. At least 40% of internship slots were reserved for women with disabilities, supported by gender-sensitive recruitment and mentoring strategies. This not only opened career doors but also provided women with a platform to gain visibility and voice in a traditionally underrepresented industry.

Audit finds gaps in accessibility at 11 government hospitals in Goa

iHEAR initiative highlights urgent need for inclusive healthcare design

NT Reporter
Panaji

Accessibility audits conducted across 11 government hospitals in Goa have revealed significant gaps in making public health facilities inclusive for persons with disabilities.

The findings were presented as part of the iHEAR Access Matters project during a one-day dissemination event titled 'More Accessible Healthcare for Persons with Disabilities in Goa,' organised by Sangath India's iHEAR team in collaboration with the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

> The event served as a sensitisation and capacity-building platform for hospital administrators and key stakeholders, and saw interactive discussions with members of the disability community who shared their personal challenges navigating the healthcare system

The event served as a sensitisation and capacity-building platform for hospital administrators and key stakeholders, and saw interactive discussions with members of the disability community who shared their personal challenges navigating the healthcare system. Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guru Pawaskar, Director of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Varsha Naik, and chairperson of Sangath Aresh Naik inaugurated the program.

Designbridge Foundation, a partner in the accessibility audits, said it was important to have inclusive infrastructure in healthcare. "Universal design benefits everyone, not just persons with disabilities," said Abhijit Murugkar of the Foundation. A panel discussion moderated by disability rights advocate Dr. Satendra Singh featured voices from the community, including Vishant Nagvekar, Mahadev Sawant, Jamila Haaziq, Rahul Kunkolienkar, and Anoushka Virk. "Accessibility isn't just about infrastructure; it's about dignity, equity, and the right to care," Dr. Singh said.

दिव्यांगजन आयुक्तालयातर्फे पर्वरी येथे योगदिन साजरा

प्रतिनिधी
पणजी

आंतरराष्ट्रीय योगदिनाच्या निमित्ताने एकात्मता, आरोग्य आणि समग्र कल्याण या संकल्पनेवर आधारित पर्वरी येथील हाऊसिंग बोर्ड कॉम्प्लेक्समध्ये राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालय, दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभाग, नागरी विमान वाहतूक संचालनालय, वाहतूक विभाग आणि गोवा राज्य संशोधन प्रतिष्ठान यांच्या संयुक्तविद्यमाने योगदिनी 'सर्वांचेच कल्याण होवो' हा संदेश देण्यात आला.

सकाळच्या योगसत्रामध्ये आर्ट ऑफ लिव्हिंगच्या प्रशिक्षकांनी मार्गदर्शन केले. यावेळी सर्व सहयोगी विभाग, कार्यालयांचे अधिकारी व कर्मचारीवर्ग उत्साहाने सहभागी झाले होते. 'प्रत्येक व्यक्तीला, तिच्या मानसिक, शारीरिक क्षमतांच्या मर्यादेपलिकडे जात संतुलन आणि आत्मशांती मिळत राहील असा सर्वसमावेशक आणि सुदृढ समाज निर्मितीसाठी योगशास्त्राचे मोठे महत्व राहणार आहेत, या विचाराचर या सत्रामध्ये भर देण्यात आला.



पणजी : योगदिन कार्यक्रमात सहभागी झालेले राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालय, दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभाग, नागरी विमान वाहतूक संचालनालय, वाहतूक विभाग आणि गोवा राज्य संशोधन प्रतिष्ठानचे पदाधिकारी.

या कार्यक्रमास राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाच्या संचालक वर्षा नाईक, नागरी विमान वाहतूक संचालनालयाचे संचालक महादेव आरोंदेकर, गोवा स्टेट रिसर्च फाउंडेशनच्या अध्यक्ष प्रा. मालापती जनार्धनम, गोवा स्टेट रिसर्च फाउंडेशनचे व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक डॉ. सावियो फालेरो, राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाचे सचिव ताहा हाजिक, परिवहन संचालनालयाच्या उपसंचालक नॅन्सी फर्नांडिस आणि दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाच्या उपसंचालक डॉ. मुसेल्डा मोंतेरो आदी मान्यवर उपस्थित होते.

योग ही केवळ एक व्यायामपद्धती नाही. मन, शरीर आणि आत्मा यांच्यातील संतुलन राखणारी एक प्रभावी जीवनशैली म्हणजे योग. दिव्यांग व्यक्तींसह प्रत्येक व्यक्ती शारीरिक आणि मानसिक कल्याण साधण्याचे सर्व लाभ घेत राहील अशा सर्वसमावेशक समाजाची पहाण करण्याबाबत आम्ही बाळगलेल्या निर्धाराला आजच्या या उपक्रमातून बळ मिळाले आहे. आंतरराष्ट्रीय योगदिनाचे औचित्य साधत, सर्व सहयोगी विभागांनी एकत्र येत सर्वसमावेशकता आणि कल्याणकारी समाज ही भावना साजरी केली, यासाठी सर्व विभाग, कार्यालय आणि सहभागी झालेले प्रतिनिधी कौतुकास पात्र आहेत, असे गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर यांनी सांगितले.

New skill certification proposal to empower intellectually disabled

ANNOUNCED AT PURPLE FEST LAUNCH, INITIATIVE AIMS TO BOOST ACCESS TO JOBS

THE GOAN I NETWORK

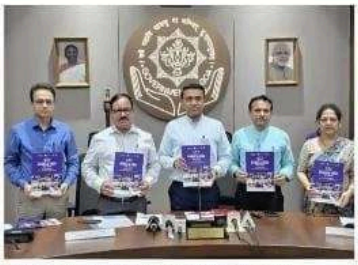
PANAJI

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday said the State government is considering issuing skill certificates to intellectually disabled students that would be equivalent to Class X and XII qualifications.

Speaking at a press conference to unveil details of the upcoming International Purple Fest 2025, Sawant said the proposal is to ensure that persons with intellectual disabilities can access job reservations and other government benefits.

"The final decision will be taken after consultations with the Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, the Education Department, and the Directorate of Technical Education," he added, explaining the move aligns with the State's vision for "Inclusive Goa 2030" and the national development goal of "Viksit Bharat 2047."

Highlighting Goa's leadership in promoting inclusion, Sawant described the Purple Fest as "a global movement that shifts the focus from sympathy to empathy, and from awareness to action."



Chief Minister Pramod Sawant unveils literature on International Purple Fest 2025 in the presence of Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Dessai at a media briefing in Mantralaya, Porvorim on Thursday.

EMPOWERMENT MOVE

- The Goa government is considering issuing skill certificates to intellectually disabled students, which would be recognised as equivalent to Class X and Class XII qualifications
- This move aims to enable persons with intellectual disabilities to access job reservations and other government benefits
- The final decision will be made after consultations with the Goa Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, the Education Department, and the Directorate of Technical Education

Purple Fest a global movement: CM

CM Pramod Sawant said Goa has positioned the International Purple Fest as a global movement that moves from sympathy to empathy and from awareness to action.

Now a model adopted by other states, last year's fest saw participation from over 15 countries. The 2025 edition, to be held from October 9 to 12, partners with the UN and the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, focusing on advancing inclusion through universal design, especially in rural areas.

"Goa's model is now being adopted by other states, and last year's event saw participation from over 15 countries. We are building a model of inclusion that others are now replicating," he said, adding that this year's edition has partnered with the United Nations and the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phal Dessai called the Purple Fest "a jan andolan," or people's movement. "Inclusion must be the starting point when planning policies and infrastructure. Accessibility is not a favour, it is a fundamental right," he said.

The International Purple Fest 2025 will be held in Goa from October 9 to 12, with the theme "Think Inclusive – Advancing Inclusion through Universal Design for Everyone." The event will feature interactive zones, design challenges, and conferences with a special focus on rural inclusion.

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar said this year's edition will go beyond awareness. "It brings visibility to the lived experiences of persons with disabilities. With a focus on rural voices, we aim to shape policies rooted in real needs."

The festival will also include exhibitions, cultural performances, and wellness activities among others.

Goa Govt to Issue Class 10 & 12 Equivalency Certificates for Intellectually Disabled: CM

Team Goemkarponn



PORVORIM: In a landmark move toward inclusive education and empowerment, the Goa Government will begin issuing Class 10 and 12 equivalent certificates to persons with intellectual disabilities, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant announced.

Chief Minister, Pramod Sawant briefed media at Mantralaya, Porvorim, regarding the International Purple Fest-2025 to be held for four days from 9th to 12th October 2025.

Sawant said that the initiative aims to open new academic and employment opportunities for individuals who have traditionally been excluded from mainstream education systems.

"The certification will be accompanied by skill development training, ensuring that beneficiaries are equipped with practical abilities to pursue vocational careers or further learning," CM said

The move forms a key part of Goa's broader vision to become an Inclusive State by 2030, and reflects a shift from tokenism to real empowerment for the disabled community.

"We are moving from sympathy to empowerment, from awareness to action, and from exclusion to equity," the Chief Minister stated, underlining the state's commitment to equity in education and opportunity.

The announcement was made in the run-up

CONTD TO PAGE 06...

Goemkarponn

27 Jun 2025 - Page 6

International Purple Fest Goa 2025 to Champion Universal Design and Rural Inclusion from October 9–12

Team Goemkarponn



Panaji: The International Purple Fest Goa 2025, India's premier celebration of the rights and achievements of persons with disabilities, will be held from October 9 to 12 in Goa. Organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the United Nations in India, this year's edition will focus on the theme "Think Inclusive – Advancing Inclusion through Universal Design for Everyone." The Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG) will serve as the official venue partner for the event.

Registrations for the event are now open through the International Purple Fest Goa mobile app, available via the official website https://purplefest.goa.gov.in for both Android and iOS users. Participants are encouraged to register early to access the schedule, venue information, and exclusive content.

Speaking at the announcement, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant emphasized that Purple Fest has become a platform where every voice is valued. He said the focus on Universal Design this year aims to redefine inclusion not just as a policy goal but as a practical design philosophy that ensures accessibility in all spheres of life, from cities to villages. Minister Subhash Phal Dessai highlighted the Fest's strong focus on rural inclusion, noting that persons with disabilities in villages face unique challenges in healthcare, education, and transportation. Through dedicated sessions and a Rural Inclusion Conference, the Fest aims to spotlight these challenges and offer scalable, practical solutions.

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Guruprasad Pawaskar, stated that Purple Fest 2025 is more than just an event—it is a movement to bring visibility to the real-life experiences of persons with disabilities and guide inclusive policymaking across Goa. The Fest will feature interactive zones and exhibits to demonstrate real-world applications of Universal Design across areas like infrastructure, transport, education, and banking. A Universal Design Pavilion will showcase inclusive solutions, while a "Design for All Challenge" will invite students and innovators to propose impactful ideas for public spaces.

The Fest will also include the Purple Conference and Purple Think Tank, which will host discussions on policy, rural inclusion, leadership, and cross-sectoral implementation of Universal Design.

The Purple Exhibition will display over 100 stalls featuring assistive technology, products, and services created by or for persons with disabilities. Purple Kaleidoscope will celebrate artistic expression through visual arts, music, and dance, while Purple Rain will feature powerful stage performances by artists with disabilities.

For recreation and engagement, Purple Fun will offer inclusive Zumba sessions, scenic cruise rides, astronomy walks, and drum circles. Purple Sports will showcase inclusive sporting events, including a special women's cricket match, while Purple Street will bring public spaces alive with music, art installations, workshops, and live performances.

By emphasizing Universal Design and rural inclusion, Purple Fest Goa 2025 aims to catalyze real change in how society perceives and supports accessibility.

More than just a festival, it is a dynamic celebration of creativity, empowerment, and community, working toward a future where everyone—regardless of ability or location—can live with dignity and opportunity.

Statewide campaign to support improve quality of life of PwDs, senior citizens

Staff Reporter
Panaji

A free assessment camp was launched in Canacona as a part of the ongoing statewide campaign to support improve the quality of life of the persons with disabilities and senior citizens. Planned for all 12 talukas, camps have so far been held in Sanguem and Quepem.

The campaign aims to ensure that no one is left behind.

"These camps help us understand their needs and provide assistive devices that improve their mobility, dignity, and daily participation," said Minister for the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phaldesai.



The campaign aims to ensure that no one is left behind.

State Commissioner Guruprasad Pawaskar said that the camps are a major step towards a more inclusive and accessible Goa.

"Our aim is to ensure that every person with a disability lives with dignity and independence. The camps are a way to bridge the gap between disability and empowerment through timely support and technology," he said.

The remaining camps will be held on May 23, at Chetna Education Society, Curchorem; May 24, at Our Lady of Piety High School, Dharbandora; May 25, at Ponda Sports Complex, Ponda; May 26, at College of Pharmacy, Panaji; May 27, at Sanjay Centre School, Vasco; May 28, at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao; May 30, at Marriage Hall, Valpoi Bus Stand; May 31, at Sohirobanath Ambiye College, Pernem; June 1, at Peddem Sports Complex, Mapusa; and June 2, at Ravindra Bhavan, Sankhali.

Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a government-owned company, is providing technical support for assessments, based on which assistive devices and mobility aids will be distributed.

अन्नपूर्णा बेस कॅम्प ट्रॅकवर चढाई करणाऱ्यांचा गौरव

क्रीडा प्रतिनिधी
मडगाव

देशातील सर्वांत मोठ्या सम्मावेशक ट्रॅक टीमचा भाग असलेल्या आणि अतिशय आव्हानात्मक असलेल्या अन्नपूर्णा बेस कॅम्प ट्रॅक यशस्वीरित्या पूर्ण करणाऱ्या गोव्याच्या प्रतिनिधीचा राज्य दिव्यांजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाच्यावतीने गौरव करण्यात आला.

गोव्याच्या प्रतिनिधींनी दाखवलेले धैर्य, साहस व सर्वसमावेशकतेची भावना या गुणांची दखल घेत हा गौरव सोहळा आयोजित करण्यात आला. या ऐतिहासिक कामगिरीचे नेतृत्व गोवास्थित टिकेश ॲबिलिटी फाउंडेशनचे टिकेश कौशिकने एडव्हेंचर पार्टनर अद्वैत आऊटडोअर्सच्या सहकार्याने केले. भारतातील दिव्यांगासाठी सुरू केलेल्या समावेशकता चढाव्वीतील एक महत्त्वाचा टप्पा म्हणून या कामगिरीचे कौतुक केले जात आहे. संधी आणि पाठबळ मिळाले तर कोणतीही मोहीम अवघड राहत नाही, किंवा कोणत्याही पर्वतशिखरावर पोचता येते हा विश्वास पुन्हा सार्थ ठरवत या मोहिमेने साहस या शब्दाची व्याख्या नव्याने परिभाषित केली आहे.



पणजी : अन्नपूर्णा बेस कॅम्पवर यशस्वी चढाई करणाऱ्या ट्रॅकिंग हिरोंसमवेत दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावस्कर, संचालिका वर्षा नाईक व दुर्गा नाईक यांच्या समवेत.

दिव्यांग व्यक्तिंना समान संधी, प्रवेश आणि प्रोत्साहन दिल्यास काय साध्य करता येते याचे एक ताजे उदाहरण म्हणजे टिकेश ॲबिलिटी फाउंडेशनच्या समावेशक ट्रॅक टीमने केलेली ही असाधारण कामगिरी आहे, असे राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावस्कर म्हणाले. अन्नपूर्णा बेस कॅम्पपर्यंतचा त्यांचा प्रवास हा केवळ एक शारीरिक समस्यांवरील मात पुरता मर्यादित नाही, तर ही कामगिरी सर्वसमावेशकता, निर्धार आणि प्रत्येकामध्ये असलेली अमर्याद क्षमता दर्शविणारा यशस्वी प्रयत्न आहे, असे पावस्कर म्हणाले.

Day after NT report, govt dispatches Divyang Rath to support special youth

NT Reporter
Panaji

Within 24 hours of a report in 'The Navhind Times' highlighting that a Canacona youth living with disability had received no government support despite repeated attempts by his family, the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Goa) sent the newly-launched 'Divyang Rath' to his home to assess his condition and begin assistance.

The report was published in the November 11 edition of The Navhind Times; the Divyang Rath reached the youth's home on November 12.

Following an on-site inspection and clinical assessment, officials diagnosed the case as spastic cerebral palsy (CP). Therapeutic intervention has begun at the youth's residence, with a customised exercise plan covering both upper-body and lower-body work to improve flexibility, reduce spasticity and support mobility.

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar said, "Our mandate is prompt, person-centred action. The Divyang Rath was designed to bring assessment and basic rehabilitation to the doorstep of those who need it most. And that is exactly what happened in Canacona. We will continue to ensure the youth receives ongoing therapeutic care, access to entitlements and the support their family needs to help them thrive."

The 'Divyang Rath' was launched during the International Purple Fest Goa 2025.

The Office and Department are coordinating with local healthcare and rehabilitation services to ensure follow-up visits, assistive-device assessment and linkage to government schemes for persons with disabilities. The Divyang Rath is also being sent to old-age homes run by Provedoria across the state to provide physiotherapy and other required interventions.

Anyone requiring home-based therapy may contact the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) on +91 82089 35103.

Left behind: Disabled youth from Canacona fights for identity and dignity



November 11, 2025

Goa to host 24th IPCA World Chess Championship from July 21 to 31

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The Chess Federation for Physically Disabled (CFPD) announced that Goa will host the 24th IPCA World Chess Championship from July 21 to 31 at the prestigious International Centre, Goa.

Organised by CFPD under the aegis of the All-India Chess Federation, the championship is being conducted in collaboration with the Goa Chess Association for Persons with Disabilities (GCAPD), and is supported by the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities (Government of Goa), the Sports Authority of India, and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

The event will be held under the Chairmanship of Subhash Phal Dessai, Minister for the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, who also serves as the Organising Chairman.

Key officials guiding the championship include E V Vallavan, IAS, Secretary for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities; Guruprasad Pawaskar, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities; Varsha Naik, Director for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities; and Taha Haaziq, Secretary to the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

The CFPD will be represented by M. Baskaran (President), Anand Babu (Secretary), Jayawanth G. Hammanavar (General Secretary of the Paralympics Association of India), R. Srivatsan (Senior Chief Advisor), and Alon Shulman (Chief Arbiter, IA Grade A).

From the host association GCAPD, the organising team comprises Sanjay Belurkar (President), Sameer Naik (Vice President), Sanjay Kavlekar (Secretary), Balakrishna V. (Treasurer), along with Tanishq Kavlekar, Komal Bandekar, Amrut Naik, Unique Chess Academy, and Queens Chess and Cultural Club.

The 24th IPCA World Chess Championship is expected to bring together over 100 top players from more than 20 countries, including Russia, Israel, Poland, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Germany, South Africa, UAE, Sri Lanka, and India.

Among the notable international participants are IM Gurbanov Andrei (Israel), FM Molenda Marcin (Poland), FM Severino Sander (Philippines), IM Obodchuk Andrei (FIDE), FM Valenta Vit Vaclav (Czech Republic), CM Samarth Rao (India), and FM Venkata Krishna Karthick, the Asian Para Champion from India. Representing the host state of Goa, Sanjay Kavlekar and Amrut Naik are also likely to compete.

This prestigious championship has received enthusiastic endorsements from renowned national and international personalities and reflects India's commitment to creating accessible, inclusive platforms for global sporting excellence.

It resonates with the spirit of Purple Fest—Goa's internationally recognized celebration of the talent and achievements of persons with disabilities—highlighting the power of chess as a unifying and empowering force.

460 PwDs registered at Divyangjan Assessment Camp in Canacona

THE GOAN I NETWORK



CANACONA

A total of 460 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) were registered at the Divyangjan Assessment Camp organised by the Planning and Statistics Department of Goa in collaboration with the Government of India at the Government Higher Secondary School auditorium in Xeller-Canacona. The camp, under the ADIP Scheme in association with ALIMCO, aims to identify and support Divyangjans by providing aids and appliances free of cost.

The camp, which was held for the whole day, was inaugurated by Speaker and Canacona MLA Ramesh Tawadkar in the presence of CMC Chairperson Sara Naik Desai and other leaders including sarpanchas from all panchayats in Canacona taluka.

During the camp, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and other facilities will be provided to PwDs. In addition, examinations of Brain, Ear and Bone specialists were conducted and four departments were set up for various types of examinations.

It is stated that these free facilities will be made available only to the PwDs above the age of 18 and having their monthly income less than Rs 22,500.

A separate counter at the camp site was made available to facilitated providing income certificate with the presence of panchayat secretaries and other employees of all panchayats, employees of central government departments.

₹40,000 grant for people with benchmark disabilities

It will be given over period of 5 years: Minister

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The Goa government has launched a High-Support Disability Scheme offering a one-time Rs 40,000 grant for persons with benchmark disabilities needing intensive support, making Goa the first state in the country to introduce dedicated financial assistance for individuals with high support needs.

Speaking at the launch, Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Desai said the initiative aims to provide meaningful support to persons with benchmark disabilities who require high levels of assistance. "Individuals with benchmark disabilities who require high support will receive Rs 40,000 over a period of five years," he said. "Beneficiaries have complete freedom to utilise the aid as needed."

He explained that the assistance can be used for assistive devices, personal care support, or educational and vocational training needs, and that applicants must be Goa residents from families earning under Rs 8 lakh a year. "Parents or guardians must obtain a High Support Need Certificate from North Goa District Hospital, South Goa District Hospital, GMC, or IPHB," he added.

The Minister cautioned that "any misuse or false declaration will lead to cancellation and recovery of the assistance," noting that the scheme may be availed once every five years. He said assistance for three beneficiaries has already been sanctioned, with many more applications under process. "Beyond this, additional support devices will also be provided, with no restrictions on such support," he added, clarifying that recipients of wheelchairs or monthly pensions under other schemes will continue to remain eligible.

State Commissioner for Persons with Disability, Guru Prasad Pawaskar, said this is the first scheme rolled out by the newly formed department. "The department is nearly fully functional, and this scheme was proposed and implemented promptly," he said. Highlighting the flexibility of the scheme, he noted, "This scheme is significant because it does not restrict usage solely to aids and appliances." Pawaskar added that the amount may also be used for therapeutic interventions such as physiotherapy or speech therapy, or for vocational assistance. "If someone wishes to start a small business, the amount can be utilised for that purpose as well," he said.

Pawaskar also shared updates from the Divyang Rath mobile unit, which recently attended to a youth from Canacona diagnosed with spastic cerebral palsy. "The department provided therapeutic interventions and, with the help of the UDID Aadhaar card agency, began physiotherapy and occupational therapy within 12 hours of receiving the case," he said.

He added that the department currently attends to 40–50 patients through home-based services for senior citizens, providing physiotherapy and other therapies across Goa free of cost.

On data collection, Minister Phal Desai said the department's survey was in progress but has been paused following government directions under the SIR (Special Intensive Revision).

"Once the SIR is completed, we will begin our own house-to-house data collection," he said, urging NGOs and associations to spread the word so the information reaches all eligible individuals

SCHEME FLEXIBILITY HIGHLIGHTED

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PwD Dept ties up with IGNOU for higher edu of specially abled students

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Goa, have partnered with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Regional Centre Panaji, to help students with disabilities continue their higher education through distance learning.

This collaboration will support students with disabilities across Goa who have completed Class 12 but could not continue their studies due to various challenges.

Through this initiative, they will receive guidance and assistance to enrol in IGNOU's certificate, diploma, undergraduate, and postgraduate programmes, allowing them to study from home. IGNOU officials will also conduct orientation sessions to help students understand the enrolment process and available programmes.

"This partnership with IGNOU is an important step towards making higher education inclusive and accessible for every person with disability in Goa. Many students discontinued their education after Class 12 on account of difficulties beyond their control. With this initiative, they will get a fresh chance to continue their education, achieve their goals, and build meaningful careers," Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, said, adding that

"Our office will guide every eligible student and support them through the necessary procedures and eligible students can avail the Scholarship of Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities."

STUDY FROM HOME

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- IGNOU officials will also conduct orientation sessions to help students understand the enrolment process and available programmes

Govt has prioritised welfare & empowerment of PwDs: Sawant

NT Reporter
Panaji

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said Goa has always prioritised the welfare, dignity and empowerment of persons with disabilities (PwDs) while speaking at the Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids and Appliances camp held recently at Ravindra Bhavan, Sankhali.

Sawant said the initiative ensures that assistive devices and support systems reach eligible beneficiaries at their doorstep.



Sawant said the initiative ensures assistive devices reach eligible beneficiaries at their doorstep.

With the creation of a dedicated Divyang Department, the government aims to strengthen its efforts toward building an inclusive Goa where every citizen can participate, contribute and live independently, he added.

Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phal Dessai said the strong turnout at the camp reflected the trust people place in the state's commitment to the welfare of persons with disabilities.

NIEPID DISHA Curriculum launched for children with disabilities

PANJIM: A landmark initiative in special education was unveiled at the International Purple Fest Goa 2025 with the launch of the Student's Workbook and Teacher's Manual under the NIEPID DISHA Curriculum.

The launch took place in the presence of Dr Virendra Kumar, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment; Goa Minister for the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phaldessai; Secretary, DEPwD, MSJ&E, Government of India, Rajesh Aggarwal; State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa, Guruprasad Pawasker; and CEO of the Jai Vakeel Foundation, Mumbai, Archana Chandra.

For the first time in India, NIEPID will distribute DISHA Curriculum student workbooks in multiple languages free of cost to around 50,000 children with intellectual disabilities and 10,000 special education teachers across the country under the National Fund.

The NIEPID DISHA Curriculum provides a digital platform for assessment, planning, and implementation of Individualised Educational Plans (IEPs).

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Guruprasad Pawasker, said, "The launch of the NIEPID DISHA Curriculum is a defining moment in inclusive education. For the first time, children with intellectual disabilities will have a unified, evidence-based framework to guide them. This initiative brings true meaning to inclusive learning."

गोवा राज्य बँकेचा दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरणासाठी पुढाकार

दिव्यांग आयोगाचे आयुक्त पावसकर यांची माहिती

पणजी : पुढारी वृत्तसेवा



राज्यातील दिव्यांगांच्या सक्षमीकरणासाठी राज्य सहकारी बँकेने पुढाकार घेतला आहे. गोवा गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर राज्य सहकारी बँकेने दिव्यांगजन स्वावलंबन योजना सुरू करून दिव्यांगांच्या स्वाबलंबनसाठी पाऊल टाकले असल्याची माहिती दिव्यांग आयोगाचे आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर यांनी दिली.

ते म्हणाले, या योजनेंतर्गत पात्र लाभार्थी ५ टक्के ते ९ टक्के व्याजदराने ४० लाख रुपयांपर्यंतचे कर्ज घेऊ शकतात. तसेच लवचिक परतफेडीचे पर्याय देखील उपलब्ध आहेत. ५० हजार रुपयांपर्यंतच्या कर्जावर १ टक्के सबलतीच्या दराने व्याजदरासाठी पात्र असलेल्या दिव्यांग महिलांना विशेष लाभ दिला जातो. या योजनेला पात्र होण्यासाठी, अर्जदार ४० टक्के किंवा त्याहून अधिक दिव्यांग (अपंगत्व) असलेले भारतीय नागरिक असले पाहिजेत, १८ वर्षे किंवा त्याहून अधिक वयाचे असावेत. बौद्धिक अपंगत्व असलेल्या व्यक्तींकडे कार्ड किंवा अपंगत्व प्रमाणपत्र असणे आवश्यक आहे. दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना स्वावलंबी, आत्मविश्वासू आणि आर्थिकदृष्ट्या स्वतंत्र बनविण्यासाठी ही स्वावलंबन योजना एक महत्त्वपूर्ण पाऊल आहे.

दिव्यांग आयुक्तालयाचे सर्वतोपरी सहकार्य

दिव्यांग व्यक्ती कौशल्य विकास आणि स्वानिक प्रशिक्षण घेण्यासाठी आणि पदवीपूर्व, पदव्युत्तर आणि व्यावसायिक अभ्यासक्रम पूर्ण करण्यासाठी या योजनेचा लाभ घेऊ शकतात. ज्यांना या योजनेचा लाभ घ्यायचा आहे, त्यांना दिव्यांग आयुक्तालय सर्वतोपरी सहकार्य करणार आहे. ज्यांना याचा लाभ घ्यायचा आहे, त्यांनी राज्य दिव्यांग आयुक्त कार्यालयाशी संपर्क साधावा, असे आवाहनही त्यांनी केले.

Goa win wheelchair cricket c'ship

PANAJI: Goa clinched the CM's Trophy after defeating Chhattisgarh in the final of the Odisha National Wheelchair Cricket Championship 2025. The tournament featured six teams — Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Maharashtra.



The Goa wheelchair cricket team on their arrival at Margao railway station.

Goa sealed the title with a strong all-round performance in the final, highlighted by an unbeaten 65 by Niklesh Pednekar. The Goa squad included Gauresh Marathe, Mahesh Pagadala, Hanmanth, Nagesh Redkar, Niklesh Pednekar, captain Stany D'Souza, Moises Rodrigues, Sayad Mosik Ahmed, Shivappa Karadi, Santosh R. Gawas and Mithun Shirodkar.

Cyber safety workshop equips PwDs to tackle online threats

NT Reporter
Panaji



The session covered the increasing risks of cyber crimes such as phishing, online fraud, identity theft and digital extortion.

Around 25 persons with disabilities from across Goa were trained in cyber crime awareness during a workshop held in Porvorim recently. The programme was organised by the Disabilities Alliance for Inclusive Goa in association with the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

The workshop focused on creating awareness about cyber security and the growing need for digital safety within the community.

The session was conducted by Sangita Naik, a digital professional, along with Police Sub-Inspector Pratik Tulaskar and Police Constable Devidas Malkar. The session covered the increasing risks of cyber crimes such as phishing, online fraud, identity theft and digital extortion.

Participants were taught how to identify suspicious online activities, protect personal and financial information, and respond effectively to cyber threats. Demonstrations of practical tools and preventive measures were also conducted to improve online safety and reduce the risk of cyber fraud.

Participants said that the initiative was beneficial as it provided essential knowledge and skills to use digital platforms safely.

They said that such awareness programmes help address the specific challenges faced by persons with disabilities in the digital environment.

दिव्यांगांच्या सक्षमीकरणासाठी चळवळीची गरज

राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर यांचे आवाहन

पणजीत कार्णवधिर व सांकेतिक भाषा दिन कार्यक्रम



दिव्यांग मुलांकडे सकारात्मक दृष्टीने पहा

पद्मश्री सद्गुरू ब्रह्मेशानंदाचार्य स्वामी, घाटेश्वर नगर, खोर्ली म्हापसा येथे विशेष मुलांसाठी निवासी इमारतीचा शिलान्यास

प्रतिनिधी
म्हापसा



म्हापसा : आस्था संस्थेच्या विशेष मुलांसमवेत पद्मनाभ पीठ प.पू. ब्रह्मेशानंद स्वामी. बाजूस उपसभापती ज्योशुआ डिसोझा, समाजकल्याणमंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, दिव्यांग आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, अध्यक्ष सिद्धेश कोटकर, डॉ. चंद्रशेखर केळकर व शिक्षक.

गोवा सरकार आज दिव्यांगांसाठी उत्तम कार्य करते ही बाब समाधानकारक आहे. यासाठी मुख्यमंत्री तसेच इतर मंत्रीही कार्यरत आहेत. दिव्यांगांकडे त्यांच्या कुटुंबियांनी तसेच सर्व समाजाने सकारात्मक दृष्टिकोनातून पाहण्याची गरज आहे. आस्था ही संस्था गेली ५५ वर्षे दिव्यांगांची सेवा करत असून आज मोठे पाऊल टाकत आहे. यासाठी आपण सर्वांनी पाठिंबा द्यावा, असे आवाहन प.पू. पद्मश्री सद्गुरू ब्रह्मेशानंदाचार्य स्वामी यांनी केले.

आस्था संस्थेच्यावतीने घाटेश्वरनगर खोर्ली म्हापसा येथे विशेष मुलांसाठी नव्याने उभारण्यात येणाऱ्या निवासी वास्तूचा शिलान्यास ब्रह्मेशानंदाचार्य स्वामीच्या हस्ते करण्यात आला. यावेळी ते बोलत होते. व्यासपीठावर समाजकल्याणमंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, उपसभापती ज्योशुआ डिसोझा, राज्य दिव्यांग आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, नगराध्यक्ष प्रिया मिशाळ, आस्थाचे अध्यक्ष सिद्धेश कोटकर, सचिव डॉ. चंद्रशेखर केळकर आदी मान्यवर उपस्थित होते.

दिव्यांगांबाबत गोवा आदर्श राज्य ठरेल : मंत्री फळदेसाई

निवासी इमारत ही विशेष मुलांसाठी हा एक आगळीवेगळी माईलस्टोन आहे. येथे निवासी इमारत उभी राहत आहे. ही खरोखरच चांगली गोष्ट आहे. यापूर्वी आनंद निकेतनने एका वर्षात चार मजली इमारत उभारून दाखविली आहे. दिव्यांगांचा प्रश्न येतो तेव्हा गोवा राज्य हे बाबाबत आदर्श राज्य म्हणून पहिले जाईल. एक महिला राज्य म्हणून आंतरराष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार मिळण्यास नक्कीच पात्र ठरेल, असा विश्वास समाजकल्याणमंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई यांनी व्यक्त केला.

मुख्यमंत्र्यांनी आपली खाती काढली तरी हे खाते मात्र काढू नका, असे आपण स्पष्टपणे सांगितले. कारण हे मंत्रीपद म्हणून न पाहता ती आमची जबाबदारी व कर्तव्य भावनेत या कार्याकडे बघती, असे मंत्री फळदेसाई यांनी सांगितले.

आस्था विशेष मुलांसाठी केंद्रबिंदू ठरेल : ज्योशुआ डिसोझा

आस्था संस्थेने आपल्या कार्याचा ठसा उमटविला आहे. विशेष मुलांचे राज्यासाठी काय महत्व आहे हे अद्याप कुणालाही समजले नाही. दिव्यांगांच्या बाबतीत गोवा आंतरराष्ट्रीय नकाशावर एक केंद्रबिंदू ठरेल,असे उपसभापती ज्योशुआ डिसोझा म्हणाले.

आस्थाचे सचिव डॉ. चंद्रशेखर केळकर यांनी सर्व वर्गात नेऊन स्वामीना विशेष मुलांबाबत माहिती दिली. राज्य दिव्यांग आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर यांनी स्वागत केले. अध्यक्ष सिद्धेश कोटकर यांनी आभार मानले. पुजेचे यजमानपद सुधीर व सौ. सुजाता रेवणकर यांनी भूषविले. यावेळी राजू खेडेकर, रुपेश गावस, आर्किटेक्ट राजेश म्हाडे, सुमेध नाईक, विजय मेट्टी, प्रा. अनिल सामंत, दीपक गोवेकर, परेश रेवणकर, उमेत बर्वे, संजय वालावलकर उपस्थित होते.

विशेष मुलांसाठी पालकांनाही प्रशिक्षण आवश्यक!

या ठिकाणी निवासी इमारत उभी राहत असून येथे विशेष मुलांना राहण्याची सोय होणार आहे. हे खरोखरच विशेष काम आहे जे आस्था संस्थेने हाती घेतले आहे. जे विशेष लोक आहेत त्या कुटुंबियांना याची खरोखर गरज आहे. येथे शिक्षक वर्गाने बरेच परिश्रम घेऊन कार्य करीत आहे. अशा शिक्षणासाठी पालकांनाही प्रशिक्षण देणे गरजेचे आहे, असे मत ब्रह्मेशानंदाचार्य स्वामीनी यावेळी व्यक्त केले.

Purple Fest Inclusive Run to bring together 500 participants with and without disabilities

NT Reporter
Panaji



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Goa will host an 'Inclusive Run' on October 12 in Panaji as part of the International Purple Fest, with 500 participants with and without disabilities running side by side to promote inclusion.

"Purple Fest has become a symbol of Goa's commitment to inclusion and accessibility. This Inclusive Run is a powerful way to showcase how sports can unite us, break barriers, and build empathy across communities. It will leave a lasting message that accessibility and participation must be a part of everyday life," said Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Dessai.

Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, said that the Purple Fest is not just an event, but a movement for change. "The Inclusive Run is a reminder that when people with and without disabilities come together as equals, society moves closer to true inclusivity," he said

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Brijesh Bhosle, a student from the National Association for the Blind (NAB) in Goa, won first prize in a chess tournament. He suffers from 75% visual impairment.

The competition was organised as a pre-event to the International Purple Fest Goa 2025 by the Goa Government and the Chess Association of Goa.

More than 10 students from NAB Goa's Santa Cruz branch participated, along with others with different disabilities from across the state. Another NAB Goa participant was Devansh Verma. Both Brijesh and Devansh were trained by their chess coach, Sanjeev Patil.

A representative from NAB Goa said they were proud of the students. "This win is not just about chess," they said. "It shows courage, hard work, and talent. Our students have shown that real vision is not only with the eyes."

NAB Goa also thanked the Goa Government for supporting the event. "Tournaments like this help people with disabilities show their skills and feel confident," they said.

"The chess event has made a strong start for the coming Purple Fest 2025 and showed that Goa supports PwDs," he added.

A LEG-UP FOR INCLUSION



Participants demonstrated unity, empathy and inclusion at 'Stride for Equality – Run for Inclusion', an inclusive run flagged off from Miramar Circle on Sunday. The event led by Rotary International District 3170 and jointly organised by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, and Rotary Club of Bardez Coastal Charitable Trust, in collaboration with the Disability Alliance for Inclusive Goa emerged as a people's movement—calling upon citizens to stand together for equality, dignity and true inclusion of persons with disabilities

दिव्यंगत्वाबाबत समावेशक पत्रकारितेवर कार्यशाळेत चर्चा

पणजी (प्र. प.)



स्पॉटलाईट कार्यशाळेत बोलताना समाजकल्याण मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई. सोबत इतर.

दिव्यंगत्वाबाबत समावेशक आणि परस्परसंबंधित पत्रकारिता याबाबत प्रसारमाध्यमांच्या प्रतिनिधींसाठी रायझिंग फ्लेमद्वारे, दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभाग (भारत सरकार), राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालय, युएन इंडिया, युएन चुमेन यांच्या सहकार्याने स्पॉटलाइट या जाणीवनिर्मिती कार्यशाळेचे आयोजन करण्यात आले होते.

या कार्यक्रमाला समाजकल्याण मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाचे सचिव ताहा हाजिक, केंद्रीय सामाजिक न्याय आणि सक्षमीकरण विभागाच्या उपमुख्यसंचालिका रिचा शंकर उपस्थित होत्या. तसेच देशभरातील प्रसारमाध्यमांच्या कामकाजामधून दिव्यंगत्वाचे योग्य प्रतिनिधित्व सादर करून, या विषयाबाबत देशभरामध्ये सकारात्मक भावना निर्माण करण्याच्या उद्देशाने आयोजित या कार्यशाळेमध्ये विविध संस्थांचे ५० हून अधिक पत्रकार, संपादक, माध्यम आणि संप्रेषण व्यावसायिक एकत्र आले होते.

रायझिंग फ्लेमच्या नेतृत्वाखालील दिव्यंगत्व समावेशक आणि आंतरविभागीय माध्यमांचे प्रतिनिधित्व आणि बातमीचा भाषा आणि बृत्तकथांची रचना समाजाबद्दल खोलवर रुजलेला परिणाम करते याबाबत ऊहापोह करण्यात आला. या संवादात्मक सत्रात दिव्यांग व्यक्तींच्या विविध अनुभवांचे चित्रण करण्यासाठी बृत्तकथा तयार करण्याबाबत तसेच अचूक आणि आदरयुक्त बृत्तांकनाची संस्कृती निर्माण करण्याबद्दल विचार, सूचनांची देवाणघेवाण झाली. या कार्यक्रमात ज्येष्ठ पत्रकारांनी जेंडर तसेच दिव्यांगत्व याबाबत पत्रकारितेच्या क्षेत्रातील आपले अनुभव सादर केले. तर कार्यक्रमाचे सूत्रसंचालन रायझिंग फ्लेमच्या संस्थापक आणि कार्यकारी संचालक निधी गोयल यांनी केले.

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NT Reporter
Panaji

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Media Workshop Highlights Inclusive Reporting Ahead of Intl. Purple Fest, Goa

Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: A media sensitisation workshop on inclusive and intersectional reporting on disability was held on Monday as a pre-event to the International Purple Fest 2025, Goa, bringing together 50 journalists, editors, and communication professionals,Organised by Rising Flame in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Government of India), the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa, UN in India, and UN Women, the workshop focused on improving disability representation in newsrooms and public narratives.Speaking at the event, Shri Subhash Phal Dessai, Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Social Welfare, Drinking Water, River and Navigation, said, "The International Purple Fest is more than an event – it's a movement to bring visibility, dignity, and pride to the lives of persons with disabilities.

We urge the media to join this global movement and embrace diversity and inclusion."Shri Taha Haaziq, Secretary, Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, highlighted the four-day festival's activities, including Purple Think Tank, Purple Conventions, and Purple Experience Zones, emphasizing the importance of creativity, talent, and fun for persons with disabilities.

राष्ट्रीय चिंतन शिबिरांत गोंयच्या प्रतिनिधी मंडळाचो वांटो

■ भांगरभूंय | खबरांमेज

पणजी : गोंयच्या दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाच्या उच्चस्तरीय शिश्ट मंडळान 24 ते 26 एप्रील ह्या दिसांत चंदीगड आयोजीत केल्ल्या तीन दिसांच्या चिंतन शिबिरांत वांटो घेतलो. राज्य आनी केंद्रशासीत प्रदेशांत 'दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरणा खातीर धोरण आनी अंमलबजावणी यंत्रणा हांचो आडावो घेत आनी तोच अदीक बळकट करप ह्या मुखेल हेता सयत केंद्रीय समाजीक न्याय आनी सक्षमीकरण मंत्रालयान ह्या शिबिराचें आयोजन केल्लें.

ह्या उच्चस्तरीय प्रतिनिधी मंडळांत राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकार, राज्य दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाचे सचीव प्रसन्न आचार्य (आयएएस), राज्य दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण दिभागाची संचालक वर्षा नायक आनी उपसंचालक डॉ. मृसिल्डा मोंतेरो हांचो आसपाव आशिल्लो. ह्या शिश्ट मंडळान शिबिरा मजगतीं जाल्ल्या चर्चा सत्रांत आनी वेगवेगळ्या सत्रांत सक्रीय योगदान दिलां.



विकसीत भारत 2047 चिंतन शिबिरांत विचार मांडतना गुरुप्रसाद पावसकार.

केंद्रीय समाजीक न्याय आनी सक्षमीकरण मंत्री वीरेंद्र कुमार हांणी सर्वसावेशक आनी समताधिष्ठीत समाज घडोवपाच्या दिकेन गोंय सरकारन केल्ल्या यत्नांची तोखणाय केल्या. आनी तांकां परबीं भेटयल्या धोरण आनी अंमलबजावणी मदल्या त्रुटींचो सोद घेवप, केंद्र राज्य समन्वय बळकट करप, लाबार्ध्यां मेरेन येवजण्यांचो लाव पुरायपणान पावतलो हाची खात्री करप, लास्ट-मायल डिलिवरींत सुदार करप आनी दिव्यांगजनांच्या कल्याणा खातीर राबयल्या उपक्रमांची वट्ट परिणामकारकता आनी प्रभाव वाडोवप ह्या हेतान व्यापक विचार मंथन घडोवन हाडप हो ह्या चिंतन शिबिराचो हेत आशिल्लो.

चिंतन शिबिरान राज्यांतल्या अर्थपुर्ण संवाद आनी सहयोगी शिक्षणा खातीर एक मौल्यवान माची उपलब्ध करून दिल्या. दिव्यांगजन हक्क कायदो, 2016 केंद्रींत चर्चेक लागून आनी अंमलबजावणी अदीक घटमुट करप, निमाण्या पांवड्या मेरेन सेवा पावोपाचे आनी वेगवेगळ्या येवजण्यांचो लाव दरेक लाबार्ध्यांक प्रभावीपणान पावतलो हाची खात्री निश्चीत करप हे खातीर आवश्यक उपाय येवजण्यांचो सोद घेवप सुलभ जाला अशे राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकार हांणी सांगलें.

झेप समानतेसाठी– धाव समावेशकतेची

मिरामारच्या उपक्रमातून दिव्यांगजनांच्या हक्कांचे समर्थन

■ टीम दैनिक हेरल्ड

पणजी, दि.११ : रविवारी सकाळी मिरामार सर्कल येथून सुरू झालेल्या 'झेप समानतेसाठी– धाव समावेशकतेची ' या समावेशक धावण्याच्या उपक्रमाच्या यशस्वी आयोजनातून गोव्यामध्ये एकता, सहानुभूती आणि समावेशनाचे शक्तिशाली प्रदर्शन अनुभवायला मिळाले. मॅरेथॉन उपक्रमाच्या पलीकडे जात हा उपक्रम एक लोकचळवळ म्हणून ओळखला जाऊ लागला असून याद्वारे दिव्यांगजनांसाठी समानता, प्रतिष्ठा आणि सार्थ समावेशकता यासाठी नागरिकांनी एकत्र येण्याचे आवाहन केले जात आहे.

हा उपक्रम रोटरी इंटरनॅशनल डिस्ट्रिक्ट ३१७० द्वारे राबविला गेला असून राज्य दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभाग, राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालय, रोटरी क्लब ऑफ बार्देश कोस्टल चॅरिटेबल ट्रस्ट आणि डिसेबॅलिटी अलायन्स फॉर इन्क्लुझिव गोवा यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने आयोजित करण्यात आला.

याप्रसंगी राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकार, दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाच्या संचालक वर्षा नाईक, राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाचे सचिव आणि रोटरी क्लब ऑफ बार्देश कोस्टलचे अध्यक्ष ताहा हाजिक, डिस्ट्रिक्ट गव्हर्नर अरुण भंडारे आणि असिस्टंट गव्हर्नर रमेश तिवारी आदी उपस्थित होते.





पूर्णतः समावेशक आणि सुलभता-सक्षम असलेल्या या धावण्याच्या उपक्रमामध्ये ३ किमी आणि ५ किमी अशा श्रेणी होत्या. यामुळे विविध वयोगटांतील आणि विविध क्षमता असलेल्या नागरिकांचा सहभाग सुनिश्चित केला गेला.

या उपक्रमात सुलभतेच्या सुविधांसाठने उपलब्ध केल्याने दिव्यांग व्यक्ती आणि दिव्यांगत्व नसलेल्या व्यक्तीही एकमेकांसमोर धावताना दिसले. एकूणच या उपक्रमातून सहभागातून समावेशकता निश्चित करता येते हा संदेश ठळकपणे समोर आला.

या उपक्रमाचे समर्थन करताना, राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त पावसकार यांनी सांगितले की, झेप समानतेसाठी हा केवळ एक धावण्याचा उपक्रम म्हणून मर्यादित नाही; तर समावेशकता ही सामूहिक जबाबदारी असल्याचा विचार कृतीतून दाखवणारा प्रभावी प्रयत्न आहे. जेव्हा समाज अशा दृश्यमान आणि सहभागी पद्धतीने एकत्र येतो दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना जीवनाच्या प्रत्येक क्षेत्रात समान आदर, प्रवेश आणि संधी मिळायला ह्व्यात हा विचार स्पष्ट, सरळ व प्रभावीपणे लोकांपर्यंत पोचतो.

या प्रसंगी बोलताना, राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाचे सचिव तसेच रोटरी क्लब ऑफ बार्देश कोस्टलचे अध्यक्ष हाजिक म्हणाले, झेप समानतेसाठी या उपक्रमातून धोरणाचा उद्देश हा लोककेंद्रित सहभागातून रूपांतरित झाल्याचे प्रतिबिंबित होते.

Goa adopts accessibility rating system, first in India

NT Reporter
Panaji

Goa has become the first state in India to adopt the Samarth Accessibility Metric (SAM), a framework to assess and improve accessibility in public spaces and built environments.

The initiative has been endorsed by the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities. The announcement was made at a workshop for the hospitality sector, where more than 22 hotels participated and committed to using the self-assessment tool.

"The initiative highlights the need to create accessible and inclusive spaces across the state," said Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phal Dessai.



The Samarth Accessibility Metric was released by Minister Subhash Phal Dessai in the presence of State Commissioner Guruprasad Pawaskar and others.

The Samarth Accessibility Metric is designed as a rating system for accessibility. It is based on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and provides a measurable framework to improve accessibility standards.

"Goa has taken the lead in implementing the metric, with a focus on improving infrastructure and promoting inclusive practices in sectors such as hospitality," said officials.

The workshop was attended by State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar, officials from the commission, and representatives from the accessibility sector.

The initiative aims to strengthen accessibility standards and encourage wider adoption of inclusive practices across public and private spaces in the state.

दृष्टिहिनांसाठी स्वावलंबनाची दिशा

व्हिज्युअल स्मार्ट ग्लासेस वितरण तंत्रज्ञानाच्या माध्यमातून जीवन परिवर्तन

■ टीम दैनिक हेराल्ड

पणजी, दि. २२ : दृष्टिहीन असलेल्या व्यक्तींसाठी सुलभता, स्वावलंबन आणि सन्मानाला चालना देण्याच्या दिशेने एक महत्त्वपूर्ण पाऊल उचलत, रोटरी क्लब ऑफ बार्देश कोस्टल, राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालय आणि राज्य शासनाचा दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभाग यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने 'व्हिज्युअल स्मार्ट ग्लासेस'चे वितरण यशस्वीरित्या पार पडले. पारएक्सेल कंपनीच्या कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक जबाबदारी (सीएसआर) अंतर्गत आयोजित या उपक्रमाची अंमलबजावणी युनायटेड वे बेंगळुरूद्वारे करण्यात आली.

या वितरण कार्यक्रमाला प्रमुख पाहुणे म्हणून राज्याचे दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावस्कर यांची उपस्थिती लाभली. तसेच, दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरण विभागाच्या संचालिका वर्षा नाईक, राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाचे सचिव आणि रोटरी क्लब ऑफ बार्देश कोस्टलचे अध्यक्ष ताहा हाजिक; यांच्यासह इतर मान्यवर आणि संबंधित भागधारकही याप्रसंगी उपस्थित होते.



सीएसआर आणि अंमलबजावणी संस्थांचे प्रतिनिधित्व करताना पारएक्सेलचे देवयानी सरकार आणि कविता मुचंडी; इम्पॅक्टचे संचालक श्रीराम ए., युनायटेड वे बेंगळुरूच्या कार्यकारी अधिकारी ऋतुजा बिरारी; तसेच एसएचजी टेक्नॉलॉजिसचे सागर एस. हे उपस्थित होते.

या कार्यक्रमादरम्यान, संपूर्ण गोव्यातील दृष्टिहीन असलेल्या विद्यार्थी आणि प्रौढ नागरिकांना एसएचजी प्रत्येकी ४८ हजार रुपये किमतीच्या २० स्मार्ट व्हिजन ग्लासेसचे वितरण करण्यात आले.

कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्तेवर आधारित ही नाविन्यपूर्ण सहाय्यक उपकरणे वापरकर्त्यांना छापील मजकूर वाचण्यास, चेहरे ओळखण्यास, वस्तूंची ओळख पटवण्यास आणि स्वतंत्रपणे हालचाल करण्यास (मार्ग शोधण्यास) सक्षम करतात. या सहाय्यक उपकरणाच्या वापरातून दृष्टिहीन असलेल्या व्यक्तीचा आत्मविश्वास, गतिशीलता आणि सामाजिक समावेशकता लक्षणीयरीत्या वाढण्यास मदत होते.

आपल्या भाषणात, प्रमुख पाहुणे गुरुप्रसाद पावस्कर यांनी सर्व लाभार्थ्यांना या प्रगत तंत्रज्ञानाचा प्रभावी वापर करण्याचे आणि स्वावलंबन व आत्मनिर्भरतेच्या दिशेने आपले प्रयत्न सातत्याने सुरू ठेवण्याचे आवाहन केले.

CHANGE IN NAME

I **MANIK MADHU MAPSEKAR** R/O H NO 226, PRABHU VADDO, CALANGUTE, BARDEZ, GOA. like to change my name from **MINIKA VOIKUNTA PILERNEKAR** to **MANIK MADHU MAPSEKAR**. Hereafter in all my dealing and documents I will be known by the name **MANIK MADHU MAPSEKAR.**

'Divya Niwas Yojana ensures no person with disability is left behind'

NT Reporter
Panaji



Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities **Subhash Phal Dessai** on Friday said that the Divya Niwas Yojana underscores the state government's "unwavering commitment to the welfare and dignity of persons with disabilities."

Speaking on the background of the scheme, Phal Dessai said that by extending structured financial support to organisations providing residential care, healthcare and rehabilitation services, the government was ensuring that no person with disability is left behind. "The scheme strengthens social security, promotes inclusive development and reinforces our vision of a compassionate and equitable Goa," he said.

Introduced in May 2025, the Divya Niwas Yojana aims to strengthen residential and long-term care support for persons with disabilities (PwDs). Under the scheme, eligible organisations operating residential or halfway homes for PwDs are provided financial assistance of up to Rs 4 lakh per month.

The scheme covers registered government institutions and non-government organisations engaged in the care, assistance and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. Financial support is extended in the form of operational grants to meet essential requirements such as shelter, nutritious food, medical care and hygienic living conditions.

As part of the initiative, financial assistance of Rs 9.12 lakh has been released to the National Association for the Blind, St Cruz, which provides residential care, rehabilitation and essential support services to persons with visual disabilities.

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar said the Divya Niwas Yojana is a significant step towards ensuring that PwDs requiring long-term residential care are provided a safe, dignified and supportive environment. He added that operational grants to organisations reflect the government's responsibility towards inclusive welfare, health security and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

दव्यांग व्यक्तींसाठी दिव्य निवास योजना

पणजी (पत्रक)

दिव्यांग व्यक्तींसाठी देखभाल सुरक्षा, साहाय्य आणि पुनर्वसन अशा सेवा देणाऱ्या नोंदणीकृत सरकारी संस्था, प्रतिष्ठान आणि बिगर शासकीय संस्था अशा संस्था यांना आर्थिक आधार देण्याच्या उद्देशाने दिव्य निवास योजना विकसित करण्यात असून या योजनेअंतर्गत, सांताक्रूझ-पणजी येथील नॅशनल असोसिएशन फॉर द ब्लाइंड या संस्थेला ९.१२ लाख रुपयांची आर्थिक मदत मंजूर करण्यात आली आहे. सदर संस्था दृष्टिहीन व्यक्तींसाठी निवासी सेवा, पुनर्वसन आणि आवश्यक सहाय्य सेवा प्रदान करणे यामध्ये कार्यरत आहे. या अनुदानाचा उपयोग निवारा, पोषण, वैद्यकीय सेवा आणि आरोग्यदायी राहणीमानाची देखभाल यासह परिचालन खर्चासाठी केला जाणार असून, यामुळे लाभार्थी दिव्यांग व्यक्तींचे जीवनमान उंचावणे आणि त्यांना दीर्घकालीन देखभाल सुरक्षा सेवा उपलब्ध करण्यात सुलभता येणार आहे. या योजनेबाबत माहिती देताना दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई म्हणाले की, दिव्य निवास योजना दिव्यांग व्यक्तींच्या कल्याणासाठी आणि सन्मानासाठी सरकारच्या अतूट वचनबद्धतेचे प्रतिबिंब आहे. निवासी काळजी, आरोग्यसेवा आणि पुनर्वसन सेवा प्रदान करणाऱ्या संस्थांना आर्थिक सहाय्य देऊन बळकटी देण्याचा प्रयत्न असल्याचे त्यांनी सांगितले. राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावस्कर म्हणाले, दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना दीर्घकालीन निवासी देखभाल सेवेची गरज आहे, अशा व्यक्तींना सुरक्षित, सन्माजनक आणि सहाय्यक वातावरण उपलब्ध करून देण्याच्या दिशेने दिव्य निवास योजनेच्या माध्यमातून एक महत्त्वपूर्ण पाऊल उचलण्यात आल्याचे त्यांनी सांगितले. तर नॅशनल असोसिएशन फॉर द ब्लाइंडचे रोझेंडो मेंडोन्सा यांनीही आपले मत व्यक्त केले.

Rotary District 3170 to host 'Stride for Equality – Run for Inclusion' in Panaji



PANAJI: Rotary International District 3170, in collaboration with the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, announced the launch of 'Stride for Equality – Run for Inclusion', to be held on December 20 in Panaji.

The inclusive marathon aims to promote equality, participation, and empowerment of persons with disabilities while uniting communities under the shared cause of inclusion. The event aligns with the Rotary International Theme 2025–26, "Unite for Good", and the UN Sustainable Development Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities.

The announcement was made during the 7th Charter celebration of the Rotary Club of Bardez Coastal in the presence of government officials, Rotarians, and disability sector representatives. Taha Haziq, Secretary, Office of the State Commissioner for PwDs and President of Rotary Club of Bardez Coastal, said the run is "not merely a marathon, but a movement reflecting our collective commitment to inclusion." District Governor Rtn Arun Bandari added that the initiative reaffirms Rotary's dedication to empowering persons with disabilities.

Registrations are open from November 1 to December 5. Participants will receive a T-shirt, certificate, and breakfast on the event day.



दृष्टिहीनांना 'व्हिज्युअल स्मार्ट ग्लासेस' वितरणप्रसंगी दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, वर्षा नाईक, ताहा हाजिक व अन्य.

स्मार्ट ग्लासेसमुळे दृष्टिहीनांसाठी नवे दालन खुले

पणजी

दृष्टिहीन व्यक्तींच्या सुलभता, स्वावलंबन आणि सन्मानाला चालना देण्यासाठी 'व्हिज्युअल स्मार्ट ग्लासेस' वितरणाचा उपक्रम यशस्वीपणे पार पडला. रोटरी क्लब ऑफ बार्देश कोस्टल, राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालय आणि दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरण विभाग यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने, पारएक्सेलन्सच्या सीएसआर अंतर्गत आणि युनायटेड वे बंगळूरूच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने हा कार्यक्रम आयोजित करण्यात आला होता.

या कार्यक्रमाला दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर हे प्रमुख पाहुणे म्हणून उपस्थित होते. यावेळी वर्षा नाईक, ताहा हाजिक यांच्यासह विविध संस्था व उद्योग क्षेत्रातील प्रतिनिधी उपस्थित होते. या उपक्रमांतर्गत गोव्यातील दृष्टिहीन विद्यार्थी आणि प्रौढांना सुमारे ४८ हजार रुपये किमतीचे २० एसएचजी स्मार्ट व्हिजन ग्लासेस वितरित करण्यात आले. कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्तेवर आधारित या उपकरणांमुळे वापरकर्त्यांना मजकूर वाचणे, चेहरे व वस्तू ओळखणे आणि स्वतंत्रपणे मार्ग शोधणे शक्य होते. त्यामुळे त्यांच्या आत्मविश्वासात, हालचालींमध्ये आणि सामाजिक सहभागात लक्षणीय वाढ होण्यास मदत होते. गुरुप्रसाद पावस्कर यांनी लाभार्थ्यांना या तंत्रज्ञानाचा प्रभावी वापर करून स्वावलंबनाच्या दिशेने वाटचाल करण्याचे आवाहन केले. वितरणानंतर लाभार्थ्यांसाठी प्रशिक्षण सत्र घेऊन उपकरणांचा योग्य वापर कसा करावा याचे मार्गदर्शन करण्यात आले. महादेव सावंत यांनी कार्यक्रमाचे उत्कृष्ट समन्वय साधला. हा उपक्रम सरकारी संस्था, उद्योग आणि स्वयंसेवी संघटनांमधील सहकार्याचे उत्तम उदाहरण ठरला असून, सर्वसमावेशक समाजनिर्मितीच्या दिशेने एक महत्त्वपूर्ण पाऊल मानले जात आहे.





THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE WORK

THE WORK OF THE OFFICE IS SHAPED BY THE COLLECTIVE EFFORT, COMMITMENT, AND COORDINATION OF ITS TEAM. ACROSS INITIATIVES, FIELD ENGAGEMENT, AND DAY-TO-DAY FUNCTIONING, EACH INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTES TO ADVANCING THE OFFICE'S MISSION AND STRENGTHENING ITS IMPACT







Together, making a difference.



Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities - Goa



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

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