INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST GOA-2024

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY





INTERNATIONAL
PURPLE FEST
GOA-2024

ORGANISERS

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment



INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST™
GOA-2024

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MESSAGE



Dr. Pramod Sawant

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa

The vision of building a 'Viksit Bharat' is incomplete without an inclusive society where all sections coexist with dignity and harmony, free from discrimination. The International Purple Fest, Goa has exemplified this ethos by empowering individuals with disabilities, fostering community engagement, and giving hope for a more equitable future. I am immensely proud that Goa, one of India's smallest states, envisioned this groundbreaking event, which has etched its name in the annals of inclusion and celebration across the nation.



Dr. Virendra Kumar

Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment,
Government of India.

As the echoes of celebration fade from the shores of Goa, my heart brims with a profound sense of accomplishment. The International Purple Fest Goa 2024 stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Government of India and Government of Goa, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and energetic and enthusiastic supervision of Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant in building an inclusive and accessible future for all Divyangjan. This festival wasn't just a symphony of vibrant performances and engaging activities; it was a resounding declaration that no obstacle is insurmountable when we stand together. Witnessing the joy on the faces of participants, as they navigated the accessible cruise, explored inclusive spaces, and connected through shared experiences, ignited a spark of hope that illuminates the path to a truly inclusive India. Our journey towards an inclusive India has just begun. The momentum gained from Purple Fest must propel us forward, as we translate aspirations into tangible action. Every accessible ramp, every sign language interpreter, every barrier removed, is a step closer to the vision of a Bharat where every individual thrives, regardless of ability. Let us carry the Purple flame a symbol of inclusion, empowerment, and celebration - as we strive to dismantle barriers and build a world where diversity is not just tolerated, but cherished. With unwavering commitment and unwavering collaboration, we can make Goa, and ultimately, all of India, a heaven for Divyangjan, where potential has no boundaries. May the spirit of Purple Fest continue to reverberate, lighting the way towards a brighter, more inclusive tomorrow for all.



Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai

Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister of Goa

To achieve Swayampurna Goa, it's vital to ensure an equitable future for people with disabilities, focusing on their economic development and enhancing accessibility. As the Social Welfare Minister, I'm proud of the innovative initiative like the Purple Fest by the Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, which is driving positive change and making history in the world. The Purple Fest stands as a beacon of hope and a catalyst for the disability sector, sparking a Purple Movement across the nation.



Dr. Puneet Kumar Goel

IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt of Goa

I am incredibly proud of the remarkable success of the International Purple Fest, Goa - 2024. This pioneering celebration of diversity and inclusion has left an enduring mark on our state's history. My heartfelt congratulations to the entire Purple Fest team for their dedication, planning, and enthusiasm, which made this vision a reality for all participants



Rajesh Aggarwal IAS

Secretary, Department of Empowerment of persons with Disabilities (Divyangian), Government of India

As the Secretary for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, stepping into the vibrant world of International Purple Fest Goa 2024 was a transformative journey. Each day, each session, each interaction chipped away at preconceptions and illuminated the extraordinary resilience, talent, and aspirations of all our Divyangjan.From the electrifying performances on stage to the insightful discussions in the "Purple Think" sessions, the festival painted a vivid canvas of inclusion. I witnessed firsthand the power of accessibility, the joy of shared experiences, and the unwavering determination of individuals overcoming seemingly insurmountable challenges. This experience challenged me to look beyond policies and statistics, to truly see and understand the lived realities of persons with disabilities. It underscored the importance of fostering empathy, dismantling barriers, and creating an environment where every individual, regardless of ability, can thrive. Purple Fest wasn't just a celebration; it was a powerful call to action. It reminded us that inclusion is not a privilege, but a right. It is a journey we must walk together, hand in hand, removing every obstacle on the path to a truly equitable and empowered society. My profound gratitude to the organizers, volunteers, participants, and everyone who contributed to the magic of Purple Fest 2024. May the lessons learned and the spirit ignited continue to guide our efforts towards an inclusive tomorrow, where every individual can paint their own masterpiece on the canvas of life.



Shri. Subhash Chandra IAS

Secretary, Social Welfare, Govt of Goa

The impact of Purple Fest, Goa - 2023, resonated throughout the state, with advancements such as new disability sectors, improved accessibility in public buildings, and the introduction of e-rickshaws. This year's festival continued to amplify the voices of persons with disabilities, with a focus on inclusivity for the neurodiverse community and shedding light on challenges faced by those with invisible disabilities through India's first conference on the topic. The selection of Purple Ambassadors for this year, considering intersectionality in the disability sector, demonstrated the festival's commitment to true inclusion.



Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar

Goa State Commissioner for
Persons with Disabilities

I am deeply gratified to witness the profound impact of Purple Fest, Goa, and the remarkable support from our Hon'ble CM Dr. Pramod Sawant, Social Welfare Minister Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, and DEPwD Secretary Shri. Rajesh Aggarwal. Their unwavering commitment has allowed us to launch various initiatives for the welfare of persons with disabilities. The fest has truly become a beacon of hope and empowerment for the disabled community, providing a platform for networking and collaboration on a global scale. It is heartening to see how Purple Fest has united people in the disability sector, transforming what was once a siloed effort into a collective movement. As one of our Purple Ambassadors aptly described, Purple Fest is like the Kumbhmela for the disability sector, bringing together individuals from across India. The festival's impact inspires us to work even harder, ensuring that it continues to create meaningful ripples of change across the country.



Shri. Ajit Panchwadkar

Director, Directorate of Social Welfare,
Government of Goa

It's truly inspiring to witness the strides taken by the International Purple Fest, Goa, towards empowering Persons with Disabilities and spreading awareness on a significant scale. The recent signing of the MoU between the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Goa, and Voice of Specially Abled, USA, marks a pivotal moment in our journey. This collaboration aims to distribute innovative assistive devices, not covered under existing schemes, thereby enhancing the lives of Persons with Disabilities. Projects like Purple Fest serve as invaluable platforms for fostering inclusion and amplifying the voices of persons with disabilities. I am eager to see the continued impact of our collaboration and the transformative initiatives that lie ahead.



Shri. Taha Haaziq

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

As a blind individual, I find great joy in witnessing the shift from a charity-based approach to embracing innovation and technology in the disability sector. The Purple Fest serves as a beacon, demonstrating how cutting-edge technology and assistive devices can enable people to lead dignified lives. This year's event featured an app with indoor navigation, an NCAHT Pavilion showcasing accessibility innovations, a convention by DFI on print media accessibility, and workshops on STEM education. These highlights underscore the transformative power of science and technology in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities. As we strive for a more inclusive India, it is clear that technology plays a pivotal role, and the Purple Fest has emerged as a platform to ignite discussions on this critical topic.



INTRODUCTION

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INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST GOA-2024

Welcome to the vibrant world of the International Purple Fest, Goa - India's first-of-its-kind inclusive festival celebrating the talents and contributions of persons with disabilities on an international stage. With more than 13,000 registrations from around the globe and over 1 lakh visitors at the venue, the fest transcended borders, welcoming participants and guests from 17 countries, uniting them under the banner of the Purple Movement.

Organized by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Goa, and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, the Purple Fest is more than just a festival; it's a powerful statement advocating for an inclusive society.

The project was initiated with a clear goal in mind: to change perceptions and attitudes towards disability, showcasing the diverse talents and capabilities of persons with disabilities. The fest aimed to highlight their presence in our world and emphasize the importance of inclusive practices in all aspects of life, including services, products, and employment opportunities. The overwhelming response to the first edition of the Purple Fest across India proved to be a catalyst for change, leading to its expansion onto the international stage.

In its 2024 edition, the Purple Fest featured nine major tracks, including the Purple Think Tank, Purple Conventions, Purple Experience Zone, Purple Exhibition, Purple Kaleidoscope, Purple Spectrum, Purple Rain, Purple Sports, and Purple Fun, each offering a unique and enriching experience for participants and visitors alike.

Accessibility was a key focus of the fest, going beyond physical ramps to ensure a truly inclusive environment for all, including the neurodiverse community. Through collaboration with Sensory All, the fest provided calming rooms, sensory kits, and other resources to accommodate neurodiverse participants. The introduction of an indoor navigation feature on the app, powered by Iwayplus, further enhanced accessibility, allowing all Purple Delegates to navigate the venue with ease.

One of the highlights of this year's fest was the conference on Invisible Disabilities, shedding light on the challenges faced by those with invisible disabilities, often overlooked in society. Additionally, the inauguration of the Pradhan Mantri Divyangsh Kendra at Goa Medical College and the Matruchhaya Rugnashraya Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Centre in Bambolim, Goa, marked significant advancements in healthcare accessibility for persons with disabilities.

As we delve into the pages of this Coffee Table Book, we invite you to immerse yourself in the stories, experiences, and achievements of the International Purple Fest, Goa - a celebration of diversity, inclusion, and the indomitable spirit of persons with disabilities.

Launch of Purple Anthem ‘Dhumal’

The Purple Anthem ‘Dhumal,’ designed exclusively for Persons with Disabilities, encapsulates their journey of life, dreams, and aspirations, motivating them to reach new heights in their pursuits. The anthem symbolizes inclusiveness and unity, as purple is internationally recognized as the color representing persons with disabilities. Penned by legendary writer and poet Shri Javed Akhtar and composed by noted film music director Mannan Shaah, the anthem’s English lyrics are by Manali Sangoi. Sung by a talented ensemble, all artists with disabilities, including Tanish Kinalkar, Shane Antonio Vaz, Saish Sanjay Gauthanker, Sara Yogesh Dalal, and Amintaj Alias Nazmeen Abdul Nashipudi.





India’s first Neuro Accessible Fest

The International Purple Fest, Goa, made history by becoming India’s first inclusive festival, prioritizing accessibility for neurodiverse participants. Partnering with Sensory All, the festival addressed the significant gap in neurodiverse accessibility, ensuring individuals with invisible concerns could fully participate. Sensory All introduced four interventions, including Calm Rooms, Sensory Dark Rooms, Play Areas, and Augmentative & Alternative Communication Boards. These initiatives aimed to create a more inclusive and accessible festival experience for all attendees. The sensory calming rooms saw active participation from over 1500 individuals throughout the six-day event, ranging from children to elderly individuals, with and without disabilities, caregivers, parents, and teenagers. This collaborative effort set a precedent for future festivals, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and accessibility for all participants.

Launch of Play Book

During the grand inauguration ceremony of the International Purple Fest, the organizing committee launched the Purple Playbook, curated by EnAble India, Bangalore. Emphasizing the vibrant spirit of celebration, the playbook outlines strategies to ensure that every individual, regardless of their disabilities has equal opportunities to participate fully in every aspect of the event. It provides insights from the first edition of the Purple Fest and offers guidelines for organizers to take proactive measures before, during, and after any event, ensuring it remains accessible to all attendees.





Launch of Purple TV Bharat

The launch of Purple TV Bharat marks a significant milestone for the disability community. Spearheaded by Infomedia Primeslot Network Pvt. Ltd., in collaboration with the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, this dedicated channel aims to showcase the ideas, success stories, interviews, and achievements of individuals with disabilities on a global platform.

Launch of the Disability Information Line (DIL)

The launch of the Disability Information Line (DIL) heralds a new era in accessibility and support for individuals with disabilities. This cutting-edge cloud-based application surpasses traditional systems, offering comprehensive information on 21 different types of disabilities and 153 domain areas, including prevention, management, educational opportunities, government schemes, vocational training, and job opportunities. With a national helpline number and toll-free options, DIL aims to bridge the gap in awareness and facilitate early identification and rehabilitation processes. By providing easy access to vital information and government services, DIL strives to empower individuals with disabilities and promote meaningful rehabilitation within their communities.





Pradhan Mantri Divyansha Kendra

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

Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Centre

The opening of the Matruchhaya Rugnashraya Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation Centre in Bambolim, Goa, signifies a significant advancement in healthcare accessibility for those with spinal injuries. Established through collaboration between the Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi and Matruchhaya, Bambolim this facility offers a comprehensive approach to rehabilitation, including medical care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychological support, and vocational training tailored to individual needs. Previously, patients had to seek treatment outside the state, posing challenges for follow-up care. With the center's opening, individuals can now access treatment locally, ensuring comprehensive post-treatment support. This initiative highlights a dedication to enhancing healthcare accessibility and improving the quality of life for those with spinal cord injuries in Goa.





Distribution of Assistive Technology by Voice of Specially Abled People, USA

During the fest, the Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, in partnership with Voice of Specially Abled People, USA, and the National Association for the Blind, Goa, undertook the distribution of essential assistive technology. The initiative aimed to enrich the lives of individuals with disabilities by providing advanced tools customized to their requirements. Various devices, including the Kibo App, Kibo XS Device, Signable App, Flexmo Crutches and Walker, and Smartcane, which are not covered under the ADIP scheme, were distributed.



Memorandum of Understanding with the VOSAP

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Voice of Specially Abled People (VOSAP), USA, and the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Goa, during the festival, marks a significant step towards creating an inclusive and accessible Goa. Founder Pranav Desai and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant exchanged the MOU, underscoring a strong commitment to the Vision 2047 for Divyangjan. The goal of the MOU is to harness the economic potential of individuals with disabilities and mainstream them into society.

VOSAP will provide digital tools for accessibility, inclusion, assistive technology, and volunteering platforms, as well as innovative assistive devices not covered under the ADIP scheme at subsidized rates. Additionally, VOSAP will subsidize interest rates for loans from the National Divyanjan Finance Development Corporation (NDFDC).

This partnership reflects the exemplary leadership of the Goa government in promoting accessible tourism, housing for individuals with disabilities, and its pledge to collaborate in achieving the $1 trillion economic goal for the Disability sector in Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Indoor Navigation

Indoor Navigation stood out as a highlight of the Purple Fest, offering a seamless wayfinding solution for all attendees. Powered by Iwayplus, this innovative system comprised three core components: mapping, positioning, and an integrated app. The digital venue map provided detailed information on rooms, washrooms, and event timings, aiding visitors in locating points of interest and scheduled events. With Bluetooth Beacons and a QR-based indoor positioning system, real-time location access was facilitated, particularly benefiting visitors with disabilities. The user-friendly mobile app integrated all components, featuring interactive maps, turn-by-turn navigation, and event location services. Overall, Indoor Navigation significantly enhanced the festival experience, ensuring all Purple Delegates could navigate the venue with ease and efficiency.

India's first National Conference on Invisible Disabilities

India's first National Conference on Invisible Disabilities took place as part of the International Purple Fest. Curated by Chronic Pain India and Believe in the Invisible, the conference sought to bring awareness and solutions to the often-overlooked realm of invisible disabilities.

Launch of accessible competitive textbook

"English Notes" by Neetu Singh, a bilingual reference book created to assist individuals with print disabilities in learning English, was released through a collaboration between Chakshumathi, an NGO for the print disabled, and Bookshare, an international accessible library. Produced by Sarala Ram Kamal, an accessible content developer at Chakshumathi, this book contains crucial lessons with numerous examples from past public exams.

Assistive Devices Distribution Camp

Organized under the Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) scheme, the identification and distribution camp was held with the assistance of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO) from January 8th to January 13th, 2024. A total of 715 people with disabilities were registered for the camp, with 520 individuals assessed for their needs. Ultimately, aids and appliances were distributed to 150 people with disabilities, while 67 senior citizens were also assessed, with 29 receiving aids and appliances. This camp played a crucial role in providing essential support and assistance to individuals with disabilities and senior citizens, enhancing their quality of life and independence.

MoU between DEPwD and NHRDN

The festival reached unprecedented levels of significance with the signing of a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India and the National HRD Network (NHRDN). This groundbreaking agreement marks a pivotal moment in bridging the gap between persons with disabilities and the corporate world. The MoU signifies a commitment to fostering greater inclusion and empowerment of individuals with disabilities within the corporate sector, paving the way for enhanced opportunities and accessibility in the professional realm.

20+ Tactile replicas of world renowned historical monuments

One of the standout features of the event is the display of 20 meticulously crafted tactile replicas of world renowned historical monuments by Saksham Delhi. These replicas offered visitors a unique opportunity to explore heritage through touch, audio, and visuals, making the experience inclusive and accessible to all. These meticulously crafted replicas served as immersive educational tools, enabling individuals to experience the rich history and cultural significance of these monuments.



PURPLE AMBASSADOR

PURPLE AMBASSADOR



At the heart of this celebration of diversity and inclusion were the 22 Purple Ambassadors, each representing one of the 21 types of disabilities listed under the RPwD Act, 2016, with the significant inclusion of Spinal Cord Injury.

Fashion took center stage as our Purple Ambassadors graced the runway in a fashion show curated by none other than Mr. Prasad Bidapa, the fashion guru of the Indian Fashion Industry, with support from EnAble India, Bangalore. Strutting with dignity, confidence, and pride, our Ambassadors not only represented their communities but also educated the audience about the various types of disabilities listed under the act.

Purple Ambassadors also took on the role of advocates, addressing policy makers at the All State Disability Commissioners Meet, shedding light on the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities.

Innovative session like the Human Library, curated by Rising Flame, Mumbai, further showcased the diverse experiences of our Purple Ambassadors, turning them into living books that narrated their stories, fostering curiosity and understanding among participants.

Through their involvement in conferences, fun activities, and community representation, the Purple Ambassadors played a pivotal role in fostering understanding and raising awareness about disabilities at the festival.



Prasad Joshi

Deaf Person

Prasad Joshi, a dedicated advocate for the Deaf community in Goa, holds the position of Lower Division Clerk at Goa University. As the Founder and General Secretary of the Goa Association of the Deaf, he works tirelessly to raise awareness about the challenges faced by the deaf community. Prasad also serves as the Vice President of the All India Deaf Arts & Culture Society in New Delhi (2023-2027). Recognized as the 'Access Mantra - Deaf Role Model' in India, Prasad's advocacy extends to the inclusion of Indian Sign Language in schools. His remarkable dedication earned him the title of "Best Government Employee in the Disability Category" from the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Goa.



K Vaishali

Person with Specific Learning Disability

K Vaishali is a person with Dyslexia and Dysgraphia. She is an author, public speaker, queer rights and disability rights activist, diversity and inclusion advocate based in Hyderabad. She is the author of the memoir 'Homeless: Growing Up Lesbian and Dyslexic in India' (published by Yoda Press and Simon and Schuster in 2023) and the novella 'Means to an End' (published by Leadstart in 2017).

She works at a tech company, where she writes developer documentation for their products and leads their LGBTQ+ Business Resource Group for the JAPAC region. She's the host of the podcast "Queerious Connections'' available on Spotify and Amazon Music.



Anubha Singhal

Person with Muscular Dystrophy

Anubha Singhal, a Delhi native, discovered resilience in adversity when diagnosed with limb-girdle muscular dystrophy. This rare condition, causing muscle weakness, profoundly shaped her perspective. An architect by profession, she has transformed her career, using design to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities and promote inclusivity & accessibility.

In 2019, Anubha founded Ayushkama Foundation, an NGO, focused on raising awareness about muscular dystrophy and rare diseases. They focus on improving the quality of life through holistic care and condition management, and has its headquarters in Delhi. Anubha is also the director at 'Enable Me Access', a non-profit Section-8 organization formed in 2020, dedicated to creating accessible environments.



Dr. Shanthipriya Siva

Person with Parkinson's Disease

Dr. Shanthipriya Siva, a person living with Parkinson's Disease, is a distinguished Senior General Ophthalmologist and a talented artist. She serves as the Founder and CEO of the SAAR Foundation, an NGO dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals with Parkinson's and neurological disorders.

Dr. Shanthipriya Siva has received several notable awards, including the Radiant Wellness Ambassador Award for medical excellence in 2019, the South Indian Woman Achievers Award for excellence in the medical field in 2020, and the Global Peace University Award for outstanding social services in 2020.

Additionally, she was honored with the Phoenix Woman title by the Ooruni Foundation for her contributions to social services in 2020 and received the Saraswatibai Phalke Award for Women's empowerment in the same year. Notably, she was also recognized as the Most Empowered Woman for 2018-2019 at the Mrs. Internations, Singapore event.



Prashant Naik

Person with Low Vision

Prasant Naik, a remarkable leader with albinism and low vision, has dedicated his career to improving accessibility for people with visual impairments since 2002. Currently, he serves as a Senior Manager at Union Bank of India, specializing in overseeing digital accessibility initiatives and demonstrating his expertise in accessible solutions and assistive technologies.

He has made significant contributions, notably development of talking ATMs in India. The model of truly accessible ATM is recognized by the Indian Banks Association and the Limca Book of Records. Additionally, he played a crucial role in developing accessible braille-enabled and tactile debit cards for visually impaired individuals. Prashant has earned global recognition as a Certified Professional in Accessibility Core Competencies (CPACC), a certified banking professional and assistive technologies specialist.

His unwavering commitment to inclusivity has been honored with accolades such as the National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in 2012 and the NCPEDP-Mphasis Universal Design Award in 2014. Further, his co-founding initiative received international recognition with the Global Elevate Award in 2016.



Puneet Singh Singhal

Person with Speech and Language Disability

Puneet Singh Singhal, hailing from New Delhi, is an individual with a stammering and a learning disability. He is the founder of a non-profit organization called 'Ssstart,' which strives to empower people with different speech disabilities by focusing on direct & truthful communication using a healing-based approach.

He is also working as the Chief Discovery Officer for the Billion Strong and focusing on amplifying the voices of persons with disabilities. His dedication to fostering inclusion on a global scale has earned him numerous accolades, including the Rising Star Award from Genius within CIC and the Diversability D-30 Social Impact List.

He has been recognized as one of the Top 200 influential voices in leadership in 2023 by LeadersHum. He describes his life as an intersection of poverty, domestic violence and multiple non-apparent disabilities, which has deepened his understanding of the concept of intersectionality in disability.



Swasti Mehta

Person with Intellectual Disability

Swasti Mehta hailing from Mumbai is a person with Down syndrome and a thriving entrepreneur who embarked on her journey in 2020 by launching her business, 'Pudina Punch'.

Before the pandemic struck, Swasti was actively engaged in various activities as part of a vocational training workshop called Abhilasha. However, when the lockdown was enforced, her in-person classes transitioned to the online sphere. During this period, she started experimenting in cooking and it was during this experimentation that Pudina Punch emerged as a business opportunity.

Today, Swasti diligently produces 20-25 bottles of Pudina Punch each day, distributing her product nationwide. Her Pudina Punch venture has gained substantial recognition, amassing an impressive 18.6 thousand followers on Instagram.



Dr. Anubha Mahajan

Person with Chronic Neurological Conditions

Dr. Anubha Mahajan is a dentist living with Chronic Neurological Conditions of Complex Regional Pain Syndrome and Central Pain Syndrome. In 2017, she founded Chronic Pain India to raise awareness about chronic illnesses and invisible disabilities, earning the NGO of the Year 2022 award for Empowering Healthcare for the marginalized communities at the NGO Awards Summit.

As an SDG Ambassador for SDG Choupal, Dr. Mahajan passionately advocates for SDG 3, with a focus on health and well-being. Certified in Theatre of the Oppressed, she promotes self-acceptance and awareness of chronic pain and illnesses through workshops, health camps, and managing social media support groups across India.

In addition to her advocacy work, she's deeply involved in social initiatives, particularly in gender equality and child and women's care policy efforts.



Pooja Gupta

Person with Thalassemia

Pooja Gupta is a person with Thalassemia major and presently she serves as an IT professional, holding the role of Project Management Coordinator at a prestigious multinational corporation. Beyond her professional life, Pooja is a dedicated advocate for Thalassemia awareness and an active member of several NGOs.

Her efforts have been acknowledged through numerous awards including Nation Award from President of India for Individual Excellence along with other accolades, reflecting her invaluable contributions to social initiatives. Pooja's vision of achieving a Thalassemia-free India by 2030 drives her tireless efforts to raise awareness about the disorder, support those in need, and secure a brighter future for future generations. In 2023, Delhi's Chief Minister awarded Pooja as the best creative individual with a state honor.



Shrutilata Singh

Person with Multiple Disabilities including Deafblindness

Sruthilata Singh hailing from Ahmedabad has progressive deafblindness. Currently she serves as a Senior Specialist Network Support at Sense International India. A vital component of her responsibilities involves the coordination of activities for the National Network of adults with deafblindness, known as 'Udaan'.

She holds a BA degree with a major in English and a Diploma in Physiotherapy from Ahmedabad University. She also possesses a Certificate in Food and Nutrition (CFN). Before her advocacy work, she gained three years of valuable experience as a pediatric physiotherapist in early intervention centers.

She has also participated and contributed as a speaker at (Global Disability Summit) GDS 2022, (United Nations Girls Education Initiative) UNGEI, (United Nations Conference of State Parties) UNCOSP with latest at Civil Society 20 (C20) Summit 2023. She is also an Executive member of Commonwealth Children and Youth with Disability Network (UNGEI Representative).



Sonali Mukherjee

Acid Attack Survivor

Sonali Mukherjee, an acid attack survivor from Bokaro, Jharkhand faced a brutal acid attack in 2003. At that time, she was college topper in sociology, captain of the NCC 5th JH Girls Battalion in Dhanbad, and a marketing executive at Dainik Jagran.

Following the acid attack, Sonali faced immense challenges, including total vision loss, partial hearing loss, multiple surgeries, family and social disruptions, and a lack of support. Determined to seek justice, she garnered attention through the media and received support from various individuals, politicians, actors, and the government. She participated in "Kaun Banega Crorepati" (KBC) in the "Dusra Mauka" segment, a significant moment in her journey.

In 2014, she became the first acid attack survivor to secure a permanent government job, a Grade 'C' position in Jharkhand. Sonali has received multiple awards, including the India Positive Award, Extra Courage Award, and the 100 Women Achiever Award.



Ekta Bhyan

Person with Spinal Cord Injury

Ekta Bhyan, a para athlete with a Spinal Cord Injury, proudly represented India at the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta, Indonesia, where she secured a gold medal in the club throw event. In 2003, Ekta's life took an unexpected turn when she was involved in a road accident, resulting in a spinal cord injury that left her upper limbs partially paralyzed and lower body completely paralyzed. In her quest for physical fitness, she discovered her passion for sports in 2015.

Ekta's determination led her to qualify for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, marking her second consecutive appearance in the World Para Athletics Championships. She has also showcased her talent on the international stage, clinching medals in several IPC Grand Prix events held in Berlin (2016), Dubai (2017) and Tunisia (2018). At the World Para Athletics Championship held in Paris (2023) she won a Bronze medal in Club Throw. Also, she won a Bronze medal in Club Throw at 4th Asian Para Games held in China (2023).

Her remarkable contributions to the field of para sports were recognized with the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in 2018. Additionally, she received the State Award from the Hon'ble Governor of Haryana on Women's Day in 2019, the ESPN Award for Para Athlete of the Year in 2019, and the Sportstar Aces Award for Sportswoman of the Year in 2020, specifically in the para sports category.



Smitha Sadasivan

Person with Multiple Sclerosis

Smitha Sadasivan, a person with Multiple Sclerosis, is a prominent advocate for cross-disability inclusion and accessibility with over two decades of experience. She has played key roles in shaping disability policies, inclusion of Multiple Sclerosis in RPWD Act 2016 and enabling an accessible pathway for persons with reduced mobility on the world's second longest beach Marina. She is currently serving on the State Advisory Board for the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in Tamil Nadu.

As an Advisor on Inclusive Health Policy at Disability Rights India Foundation, she has been relentlessly working towards enhancing healthcare for persons with disabilities. Smitha's advocacy extends to the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for Universal Health Coverage 2030 and the CS Alliance for Human Rights on Pandemic Treaty, where she contributes significantly to the global health landscape, upholding the inclusion agenda.

In her role as an Accessibility Consultant for Election Commission of India, she successfully strategized disabled friendly electoral processes. Smitha is also a dedicated champion for women with disabilities and gender equality. Her remarkable contributions have earned her prestigious awards, including the State Government Award for Best Social Worker and the Javed Abidi Public Policy Award.



Chaitanya Mukund

Person with Cerebral Palsy

Chaitanya Mukund is an author, blogger, and supermodel who has Cerebral Palsy. In 2018, he gained recognition for becoming a supermodel with a disability at a fashion event that made it into the Guinness Book of World Records for having the most designers present in a single continuous fashion show.

In 2019, he introduced India's first superhero, Shivay, whose alter-ego is a person with a physical disability, through his debut book.

He initiated the #AbusingTheDisability social media campaign to raise awareness about this issue, which garnered widespread attention and praise for its direct approach. Additionally, he was a guest on an award-winning podcast based in California, where he shared his life journey and efforts in the disability sector.



Vishant Nagvekar

Person with Locomotor Disability

Vishant Nagvekar hailing from Panaji, Goa has a locomotor disability and currently holds the position of Research Assistant, Group 'B' Gazetted Officer in the Common Statistical Cadre within the Forest Department of the Government of Goa. In 2023, at the age of 51, he achieved a Post Graduation Diploma in Allied Statistics from the Govt College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Sanquelim-Goa.

Vishant is an active member of the Advisory Committee for the Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities. He also serves on the North Goa District Level Committee for Disabilities, constituted as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. He is a passionate disability rights advocate and holds the role of an Executive Member at the Disability Alliance for Inclusive Goa, an NGO.

Furthermore, Vishant is an active participant in sports. He played a crucial role as a core team member in organizing the All India Purple Para Table Tennis Championship 2023, which was part of the Purple Fest 2023. In March 2023, he competed in the National Para Table Tennis Tournament in Indore, reaching the pre-quarter round.



Nomesh Verma

Person with Sickle Cell Disease

Nomesh Kumar Verma from Raipur district in Chhattisgarh is a Sickle Cell Disease warrior and was struggling to make a living after his mother's death. However, he found a new path through a 'Sightsavers' training program designed for individuals with disabilities, which enabled him to become an electrician and connect with People with Disabilities.

Presently, he is the Founder of the Sickle Cell Foundation, Chhattisgarh and an Executive Member of NASCO. Additionally, he holds the position of President at Kalyan Divyang Sangh. As a motivational speaker, he shares his inspiring story, particularly with Sickle Cell patients, to encourage them to make meaningful contributions to society.

Moreover, Nomesh actively engages in policy advocacy, advocating for the implementation of important schemes and laws like the RPwD Act, 2016 to support individuals with disabilities.

PURPLE AMBASSADOR



Disha Pandya

Person with Dwarfism

Hailing from Mumbai, Disha Pandya is a person with Dwarfism and the proud mother of India's first twins with Dwarfism. She is a versatile professional, excelling as an artist, graphic designer, photographer, and national-level badminton player. Disha also serves as a Graphic Design Manager, leading creative teams for well-known Indian brands. Additionally, she is a sought-after motivational speaker, having spoken at TedX, Josh Talk, and various corporate events.

In the 2019 National Para Badminton Championship, Disha achieved remarkable success, securing a gold medal in the women's doubles event and a silver medal in mixed doubles in the SS6 (short stature) category.

Disha's encounter with fellow individuals with Dwarfism during her para championship journey inspired her to establish 'Little People of India,' the country's first dedicated NGO for people with Dwarfism. This organization's mission is to address the significant issues affecting individuals with Dwarfism and their families while raising global awareness.



Saurabh Prasad

Person with Blindness

Saurabh Prasad, a Microsoft software engineer, is a resident of Jharkhand and is living with visual impairment. Currently, he serves as a Javed Abidi fellow at the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People in Delhi. His primary goal is to improve accessibility in STEM subjects for students with visual impairments.

Saurabh's significant achievements include launching a foundational survey and establishing a platform, a11code. com, which provides coding tutorials with special features to enhance accessibility.

Saurabh's overarching vision is to eliminate obstacles for students with visual impairment pursuing STEM fields and to advocate for enhanced product accessibility for screen readers. He aims to develop a universal accessibility model that can be adopted by companies globally.



Aditi Gangrade

Autistic person

Aditi Gangrade is a 25-year-old film director, writer. She is Autistic, has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder.

She is the chief creative officer and co-founder of Much Much Media, an inclusive storytelling and insights studio focused on content around mental health, disability and neurodiversity.

Over the past 6 years she has worked with brands such as Netflix, Instagram, Google, Coca-Cola Foundation, Save The Children, and more. One of her recent films - Unmasking Autism - was screened at the Pride Filmtage Bremen Film Festival in Germany. Her work has been featured in publications such as UN News, The Hindu, Mid Day, Times of India, and more.



Priya Lal

Leprosy Cured Person

Priya Lal is a 28-year-old professional working in the Audit department of a prominent Big 4 company. Diagnosed with leprosy at the age of 5, she faced challenges early in life, including the loss of her mother at 9.

Despite receiving Multidrug Therapy (MDT) and corrective surgery, she deals with limited sensation in her right hand. A pivotal moment occurred when a colleague questioned her unusual grip, inspiring Priya to openly share her leprosy journey.

In her workplace, where awareness about the disease was lacking, Priya courageously disclosed her condition, encountering a mix of understanding and ignorance. Undeterred, Priya remains determined, hoping to raise awareness and foster understanding about leprosy. She strives for a world where individuals like her are celebrated for their resilience, not judged by differences.



Radhesh Varty

Person with Hemophilia

Radhesh Varty, a resident of Nerul, Goa, is an individual living with Hemophilia, a blood disorder. He has established his own Printing Press Unit called Padma Printers in Nerul. The press has six employees and primarily serves clients from the tourism industry.

Radhesh's journey with this blood disorder began at the age of one, leading to biannual visits to a Mumbai hospital for treatment due to a lack of awareness and medical facilities, regarding his disability in Goa. Undeterred by these challenges, he pursued his education through home schooling and ventured into entrepreneurship, founding his business at the young age of 22.

In addition to his professional pursuits, Radhesh has been an active participant in the Hemophilia Society Panaji Chapter since its establishment in 2010. Currently, he holds the post of Financial Advisor for the Hemophilia Society Panaji Chapter. His efforts are dedicated to creating a support system that enables individuals with disabilities to achieve economic independence and livelihood.



Reshma Valliappan

Person with Mental Illness

Reshma Valliappan, known as Val Resh, is the co-founder of The Red Door, a prominent advocacy organization in the field of mental health. Reshma is a multi-talented individual, encompassing roles as an artist, writer, poet, martial artist, lecturer, educator, activist, mime artist, and spiritual mediator.

Embracing her identity as "The Schizophrenist," she channels her creativity through various avatars. Additionally, Reshma is an Ashoka and Ink fellow. She is the central figure in the award-winning documentary "A Drop of Sunshine" and the author of a memoir published by Women Unlimited.

While she once felt like an alien on Earth, she now fully embraces her humanity and devotes her time to motherhood, caring for her daughter, Bhumivajrini.



INAUGRATION

INAUGURATION

The International Purple Fest, Goa - 2024 commenced with a grand inauguration ceremony at D.B Ground in Panaji, Goa, on January 8, 2024. The festival is a collaborative effort between the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, the Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Goa, and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

The Opening Ceremony of the International Purple Fest witnessed the presence of Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri. Ramdas Athawale, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister of Goa, Shri. Sadanand Shet Tanavade, Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha, Shri. Rajesh Aggarwal, Hon'ble Secretary of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, Shri. Guruprasad Pawaskar, the Goa State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Shri. Taha Haaziq, Secretary, Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and other esteemed dignitaries.

The ceremony highlighted the festival's significance in catalyzing a profound shift in societal perspectives towards disability, emphasizing inclusivity and empowerment.

In a significant address at the inauguration ceremony, Hon'ble CM highlighted the imperative of achieving an Inclusive India, aligning with the vision set forth by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi. Dr. Sawant emphasized the importance of inclusivity across various domains including education, employment, sports, health, and skills development.

He further underscored the evolving discourse in India towards an Inclusive India, a concept that is now at the forefront of national discussions unlike before. He reiterated the commitment of the Government of Goa towards realizing this vision, particularly in empowering Persons with Disabilities. He also acknowledged the encouragement and support received from Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has praised the initiative of the Goa government on various platforms.

Hon'ble Union Minister Shri. Ramdas Athavale praised the festival's popularity and acknowledged the India's current government's initiatives for persons with disabilities and thanked the Goa government for organizing the fest.

Hon'ble Social Welfare Minister of the Goa State, Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai reiterated the government's commitment to fostering self-reliance in the disabled community. He emphasized the Purple Fest as a platform for learning and sharing best practices in the field of disability.

After its successful launch last year, the International Purple Fest has played a pivotal role in shaping more inclusive policies for Persons with Disabilities. Over the past year, this festival has evolved into a vibrant platform, connecting individuals and organizations from diverse sectors. It has become a catalyst for learning and collaboration, fostering a culture of inclusivity and empowerment, said Shri. Rajesh Aggarwal, Hon'ble Secretary.

The opening ceremony also featured the rendition of the Purple Anthem titled 'Dhumal,' showcasing performances by persons with disabilities from Goa alongside revered creators from the Indian music industry, symbolizing inclusivity and unity. Overall, the ceremony set a positive tone for the festival, highlighting its role as a catalyst for change and inclusivity in the country.



PURPLE THINK TANK

PURPLE THINK TANK

DAY 1

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



Promoting New Leadership

The first panel underscored the imperative to break barriers and facilitate the progression of disabled individuals into leadership roles. Esteemed panellists included Abhishek Anicca, NCPEDP-Javed Abidi Fellows Kavya Poornima Balajepalli, Ferdinand Lyngdoh and Sakshi. The distinguished panellists emphasized the importance of grassroots-level ideas and collaboration. Moderated by Akhil Paul, the session highlighted the potential of young disabled leaders and the need for an inclusive approach in leadership roles.

Challenges in inclusion for Persons with Deafblindness

The third panel, moderated by Akhil Paul, tackled the pressing issue of Deafblindness awareness. Esteemed panellists included Shrutilata Singh, Pratik Arjun Sen, Sunil Abbas and Ravinder. The discussion unveiled challenges individuals face, including difficulties in medical certification, lack of self-awareness, and limited recognition under the RPwD Act, 2016. The session shed light on the importance of raising awareness and recognition to improve the lives of those with Deafblindness.

Assistive Technology

The second session, moderated by Shilpi Kapoor, delved into the realm of assistive technology (AT). Esteemed panellists included Arman Ali, Daniel Van Sant, Bhausaheb Botre, Sandeep, Dipti Prasad, Manish Kumar and Masoom Reza. Arman Ali stressed that India has the potential to lead in assistive technology and emphasized the establishment of the AT Hub by NCPEDP, with a keen emphasis on fostering innovation, promoting inclusivity, and ensuring accessibility. The session emphasized AT as an enabler tailored to individual needs, rejecting a one-size-fits-all approach.


INTERNATIONAL
PURPLE FEST
GOA-2024
Purple Think Tank
Disabled People



PURPLE THINK TANK

DAY 2

The second day of the Purple Think Tank witnessed a distinguished gathering, graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant. The Chief Minister passionately advocated for increased leadership roles for persons with disabilities in politics, drawing attention to the urgency of disability reservation akin to women's reservation.

Shri. Rajesh Aggarwal, IAS, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India emphasized the non-negotiable importance of relevant data for fair resource allocation.

Arman Ali, Executive Director of NCPEDP, urged a shift in the discourse around people with disabilities in elections. No longer should they be mere symbols; instead, individuals with disabilities should leverage their vote for tangible results and advocate for the value of their identity.

The day featured four impactful panel discussions

Disaggregated Data and Disability

Esteemed panellists included Shri. Rajesh Aggarwal, Arman Ali, Akhil Paul, Daniel Van Sant, Adv. Abhishek Kumar, Saraswathy G., delved into the importance of accurate data for fair resource allocation. The session was moderated by Amar Jain.

Political Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

The panel, featuring Arman Ali, Thaneshwar Nishad, Smita Sadasivan, Daniel Van Sant, Shri Das Suryavanshi, Raj Kumar Makkad, and moderated by Akshay Jain, explored strategies to enhance the political inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Future of Work: Education & Employment for Persons with Disabilities

Meera Shenoy, Saurabh Prasad, Javid Khan, along with moderator Meenu Bhambhani, engaged in discussions on creating opportunities and overcoming challenges in education and employment for persons with disabilities.

Health Insurance for Persons with Disabilities

Panellists Sandeep Chitnis, Arman Ali, Amar Jain, along with NCPEDP-Javed Abidi Fellows Priya Srivastava, Kavya Mikhija, and moderated by Sumeet Parikshit, explored the critical topic of health insurance for persons with disabilities.

DAY 3

As the curtains fell on the final day of the Purple Think Tank, two pivotal sessions took centre stage, delving into the critical realms of “Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities” and “Reforming Advocacy Strategies.” The day unfolded with profound insights from esteemed panellists, shedding light on the pressing need for societal change and evolving advocacy approaches.

Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

The panel discussion on “Social Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities” featured eminent voices like Poonam Natarajan and NCPEDP Javed Abidi Fellows Sonu Ram, Balram Ghoshal, and Deepak Mishra. Moderated by Meenu Bhambhani, the session highlighted the critical need for societal change. Addressing the challenges faced by 26.8 million persons with disabilities in India, the panel emphasized the urgency to secure equal rights and opportunities. Poonam Natarajan advocated for a proactive approach, encouraging meaningful connections and equal participation for disabled individuals.

Reforming Advocacy Strategies

Panel Discussion on Reforming Advocacy Strategies featured distinguished panellists like Poonam Natarajan, Kanchan Pamnani, Sumeet Parikshit, and NCPEDP Javed Abidi Fellows Kavya Poornima Balajepalli, Adv. Abhishek Kumar, and Kumar Mahavir. Moderated by Akshay Jain, the speakers highlighted advocacy as the cornerstone for inclusive development, evolving from a charity-based to a rights-based approach. Reforming advocacy, they emphasized, requires an intersectional approach, amplifying voices, and ensuring meaningful involvement.

PURPLE THINK TANK







PURPLE EXPERIENCE ZONE

Mouseware Experience

Curator : Dextroware Devices, an IIT-M incubated startup company

The Mouseware Experience Zone attracted considerable interest, experiencing notable engagement. This overwhelming response underscored the zone's success in creating awareness about the challenges faced by those with upper limb disabilities and the transformative role that Mouseware can play in overcoming these obstacles. Dr. Nonita Gangwani's (a Mouseware user and a person with living with Multiple Sclerosis) artistic demonstration not only highlighted the practical application of Mouseware but also provided a profound insight into the technology's diverse uses.



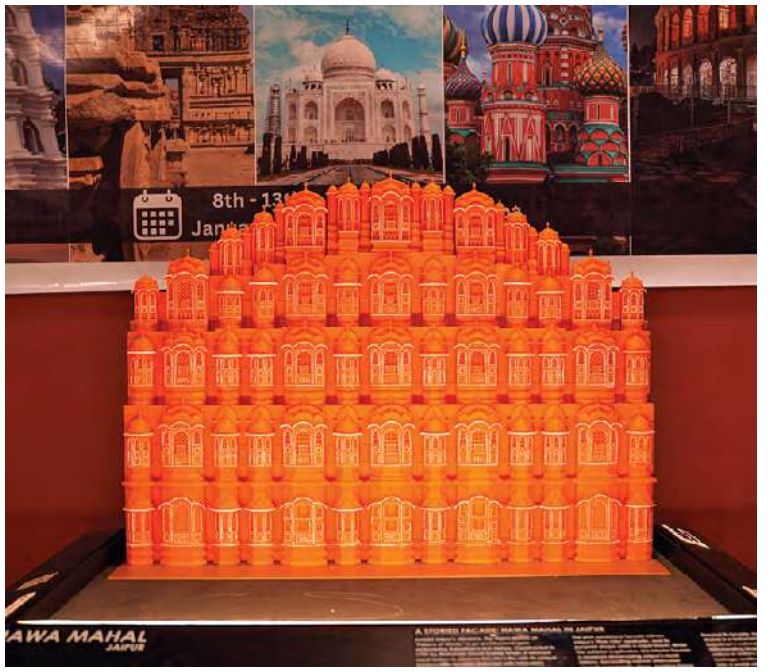


Human Library

Curator : Rising Flame, Mumbai

Human Library, a unique event that unfolded from the 11th to the 13th of January, 2024 brought together 21 Purple Ambassadors who transformed into living books, weaving their life stories into a vibrant tapestry of human experiences. In an intimate environment, stories of resilience, hardship, and success unfolded. This once-in-a-lifetime event served as a key tool for spreading awareness about disabled experiences and broadening the spectrum of human existence. The participation included festival participants and students from special and regular schools which helped create a safe and healthy space for unlearning and learning. The audience left with the feeling of warmth and curiosity to learn more.




AWA MAHAL
JAIPUR

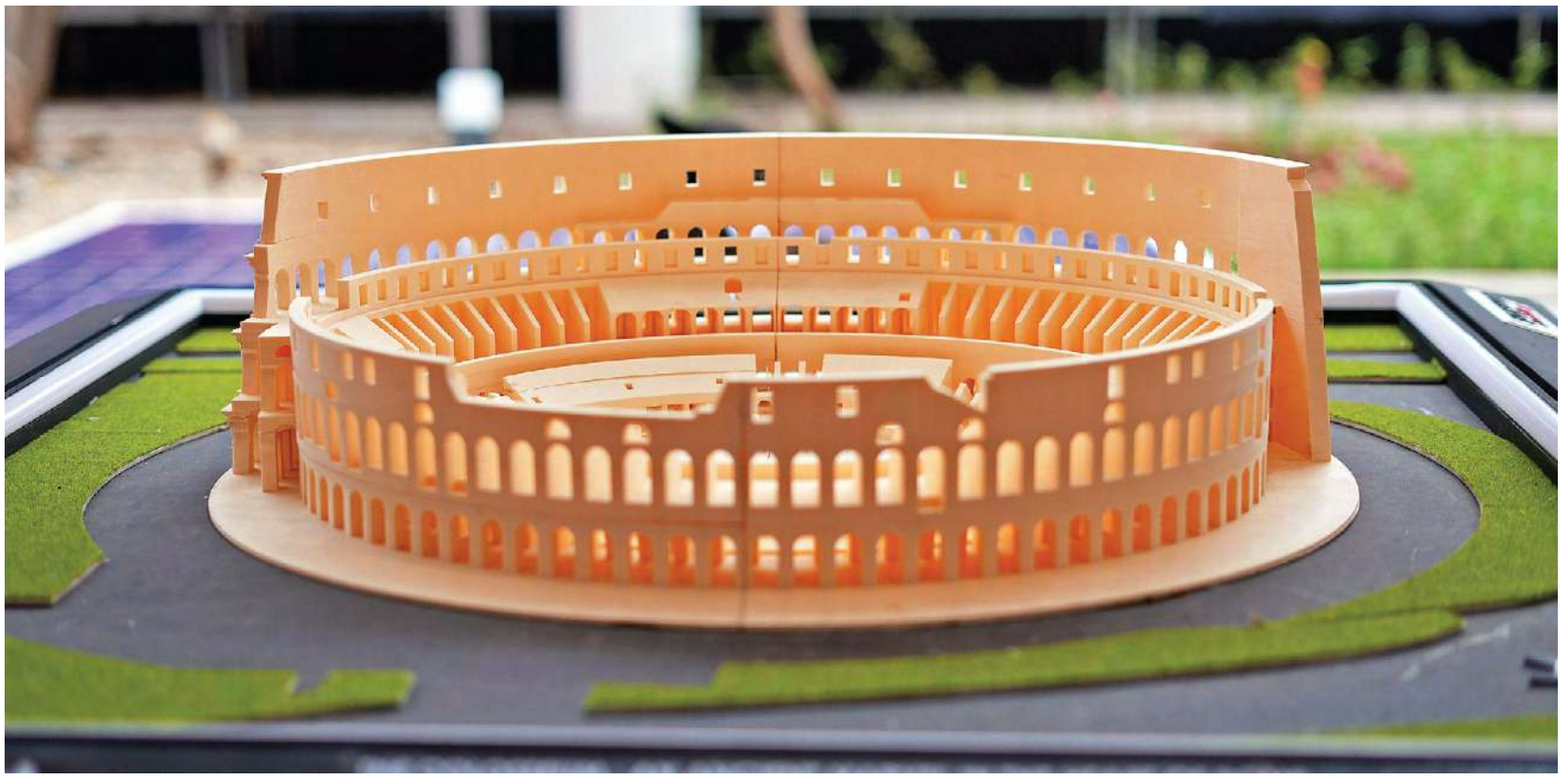




Sensory Heritage Hub

Curator : Saksham, Delhi

The Sensory Heritage Hub at Purple Fest showcased 20 meticulously crafted replicas of renowned historical monuments, inviting visitors to explore heritage through touch, audio, and visuals. Attendees could run their fingers over the intricate details of the Taj Mahal or feel the majestic presence of Qutub Minar, creating an immersive experience for all. Beyond physical replicas, this zone aimed to foster conversations and cultivate a shared appreciation of cultural heritage. This initiative transformed history into a tangible, inclusive experience, accessible to everyone.




CHRIST THE REDEEMER



Inclusive Carnival

Curator : Akshadhaa Foundation

The Inclusive Carnival, hosted at the Purple Fest, aimed to enhance community understanding of inclusion for neurodiverse individuals. Activities in various zones, such as Simulation, Competence, and Solutions, provided an immersive experience for participants to step into the world of neurodiversity. The event received significant engagement from a diverse audience, emphasizing its positive impact in creating awareness and fostering sensitivity toward the needs of neurodiverse individuals.

Inclusive Education

The Inclusive Education experience zone curated by Saksham provided a unique platform for educators and individuals interested in inclusive teaching methods to interact and learn from experts.

Saksham collaborated with Sahastra, Anandini, and Astha Foundations to offer a diverse range of expertise at the pavilion. Sahastra focused on children with various disabilities, including dyslexia, slow learners, hearing impairment, and those on the autism spectrum, providing personalized attention through small group sizes. Anandini focused on dyslexia and other learning disabilities, legal rights of persons with disabilities, and workshops on various topics related to inclusive education. Astha focused on multiple disabilities, enriching the pavilion's expertise in diverse areas.

In addition to interactive sessions, Saksham showcased various assistive devices and teaching-learning materials (TLMs) used in teaching children with disabilities, demonstrating practical approaches to inclusive education. The pavilion served as a hub of knowledge and collaboration, bringing together different perspectives and resources to promote inclusive education practices.

NCAHT-ICMR Pavillion

Curator: National Centre for Assistive Health Technologies

NCAHT, represented by teams from IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, National Institute of Speech and Hearing Impairment (NISH), and Saksham, established an experience zone at Purple Fest. Featuring over 200 Assistive Solutions, the zone focused on affordability and accessibility for individuals with visual impairment, print disability, orthopedic disability, and speech and hearing disability.

The solutions spanned independent mobility, education, workplace tools, sports, leisure, and daily living, promoting inclusivity and productivity. Notable solutions included mobility canes, accessible reading and writing apps, tools for Mathematics and Science, Braille Displays, and various types of wheelchairs and crutches. The interactive stall engaged diverse end-users, including family members, educators, government officials, and rehabilitation professionals, fostering a positive perception of assistive technology.

Inclusive Classroom

The inclusive classroom sessions conducted by XRCVC, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, led by Ms. Poonam Deokar and Mr. Krishna Warrier, aimed to simulate various disabilities to help educators understand the challenges faced by students in a classroom setting. The sessions emphasized the importance of accommodating the diverse needs of learners, regardless of their disabilities, and highlighted the benefits of fostering inclusivity in educational settings. Attendees shared their insights and experiences, acknowledging both the challenges and opportunities of creating an inclusive classroom.



Dialogue in the Dark

The Dialogue in the Dark (DID) Experience Zone, organised in partnership with the Dialogue in the Dark and State Bank of India Foundation, offered a unique empathy journey for visitors. Catering to a diverse audience including corporate representatives, HR & DEI leaders, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), government stakeholders, NGO representatives, and educators, the zone immersed visitors in daily life situations experienced in complete darkness. From walking in a park to shopping and playing cricket, visitors navigated these tasks with the assistance of blind tour guides. This role reversal experience fosters a transformative change in mindset, highlighting the need for economically empowering opportunities for PwDs rather than sympathy.

Experience the Invisible

Curator : Believe in the Invisible

"Experience the Invisible," an enlightening activity at Purple Fest, delved into the hidden struggles of those with invisible disabilities. Through hands-on simulations utilizing everyday items, nuanced symptoms like fatigue, chronic pain, and cognitive dysfunction were replicated. Participants engaged in activities such as balancing on a water bag, blindfolded walks, and buttoning up shirts with rubber gloves, shedding light on often unnoticed challenges. This initiative resonated across diverse backgrounds, involving people with disabilities, employers, and NGO representatives.





Antarchakshu

Antarchakshu, a trademark event of the Xavier's Resource Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, offered a unique and enlightening experience zone on the theme of "Disability and Inclusion." This event aimed to challenge perceptions and myths surrounding disability through simulations that allowed participants to briefly experience different disabilities. Following these simulations, participants engaged in debriefing sessions designed to demystify disability and promote a better understanding of the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. One of the highlights of Antarchakshu was the opportunity for participants to attend sessions on inclusive classrooms. These sessions provided practical insights and strategies for educators and educational administrators to create inclusive learning environments for students with disabilities.



Towards Inclusion

The “Towards Inclusion” session, led by Miss Ritika Sahni, Founder-Trustee, and Disability Campaigner, was a dynamic and engaging experience at the Purple Experience Zone. Participants from various backgrounds, including special education teacher trainees, college students, and students from an inclusive school, came together to play interactive card games and engage in thoughtful discussions about disability language and awareness. The session also featured a music video, a poem, and excerpts from a disability awareness booklet, enriching the participants’ understanding and fostering inclusivity.



PURPLE CONVENTION



Purple Eyeway Conversation

The Purple Eyeway Conversations, curated by Score Foundation as part of the International Purple Fest, showcased the remarkable journeys and achievements of individuals with diverse backgrounds and disabilities. Spanning from January 10th to January 13th, each session featured guests like Salil Chaturvedi, Ankur Kankonkar, Piyush Rakhecha, Connie Godinho, Bikram Jyoti Das, Rupmani Kshetri, Sundeep Rao, and Siddharth G J, who shared their inspiring stories of resilience and determination. These conversations aimed to break stereotypes and highlight the capabilities of persons with disabilities, fostering empathy and understanding among the audience.



Purple People

The Purple People conference, a part of the International Purple Fest, curated by Rising Flame, aimed to spotlight the unique challenges faced by women and gender-marginalized individuals with disabilities. Held from January 11 to 13, 2024, the event featured engaging panels, masterclasses, and a reading session, offering a platform for discussions, learning, and reflection. Panels like “Gender, Leadership, and Work” and “Gender and Care” explored the nuances of gender dynamics and caregiving responsibilities, advocating for inclusivity and support. The conference also delved into topics like gender fluidity, disabled parenting, and accessibility, addressing the intersectionality of gender, disability, and societal norms. With a focus on promoting awareness and understanding, the Purple People conference aimed to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for all individuals, regardless of their gender or disability status.



Deaf Education Conference

The Deaf Education Conference, organized by Hear A Million, an initiative of EnAble India in Bangalore, featured a keynote session by Dr. Shilpa Hanumantha Lacy from Gallaudet University, USA, titled “Deaf lives unveiled: Navigating oppression across multiple dimensions.” Dr. Lacy, a deaf female with expertise in clinical psychology, discussed the daily struggles of the deaf community, encouraging attendees to share their experiences. The event also included a panel discussion on “Bilingual Education for Deaf Children in India,” highlighting challenges and opportunities in deaf education and advocating for bilingual teaching methods. The conference provided a platform for dialogue and learning, aiming to raise awareness about the experiences of deaf individuals and improve education for deaf children in India.



Accessible and Inclusive Digital India (AADI)

Putting IS-17802 Standard into action

Curated by C-DAC's Knowledge & Resource Centre for Accessibility in ICT (KAI) "Accessible and Inclusive Digital India (AADI): Putting IS-17802 Standard into action" was held on January 12th, 2024. This convention focused on the importance of the IS-17802, India's national standard for accessible ICT products and services, and how it can be implemented to create a more inclusive digital world for everyone. The convention was inaugurated by Shri. Rohan Khaunte, Hon'ble Minister for IT, Govt of Goa. The discourse delved into the nuances of the IS-17802 standards, elucidating their legal ramifications and implementation intricacies within the banking sector. Additionally, the negotiations at the intersection of accessibility and security aspects were comprehensively explored.



4th Annual National Conference of Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability (COMHAD)

The 4th Annual National Conference of Commonwealth Association for Health and Disability (COMHAD) centered around the theme of 'Nextgen Healthcare for Empowering Individuals with Disabilities.' Organized by the Goa COMHAD Committee, chaired by Dr. Virendra Gaonkar and spearheaded by Dr. Priyanka Raikar as Organizing Secretary, the conference brought together experts and stakeholders to discuss pertinent issues in disability healthcare. Dr. Shivanand Bandekar, Dean of Goa Medical College, pledged support with over 100 medical students engaging in COMHAD initiatives. Dr. Uday Bodhankar, Executive Director of COMHAD, covered diverse topics ranging from child development to critical care, emphasizing holistic healthcare approaches. The event also featured presentations of 17 research papers, showcasing the commitment to advancing knowledge and practices in disability healthcare across India.



From invisible to visible : National Conference on Invisible Disabilities

The National Conference on Invisible Disabilities, held as part of the International Purple Fest, was a significant event aimed at raising awareness about the presence and challenges faced by individuals with invisible disabilities. Curated by Chronic Pain India and Believe in the invisible, the conference highlighted the need to differentiate between visible and invisible disabilities, emphasizing conditions that may limit a person's movements or activities but are not apparent externally. The conference covered a range of themes, including diagnosis and treatment, certification and health insurance, gender and mental health, education, livelihood, climate change, and caregiving. The renowned director and film producer Vikram Bhatt was the keynote speaker. The conference concluded with a call to extend the awareness campaign nationally, aiming to promote inclusivity and understanding of the challenges faced by this community.

Convention by Daisy Forum of India

The Daisy Forum of India Convention, held on January 10, 2023, was a pivotal gathering aimed at enhancing accessibility for visually impaired individuals. Featuring an array of distinguished speakers, the event covered diverse topics related to accessible content and technology. Sessions delved into various aspects, including accessible newspaper services, digital content accessibility by leading organizations like TCS and Adobe, and capacity building initiatives in collaboration with DAISY Consortium and WIPO. Demonstrations showcased innovative solutions like IVR-based book reading and AI tools for image description, emphasizing the importance of digital literacy and empowerment for visually impaired individuals. Presentations by Google and Bookshare highlighted efforts to promote accessibility and inclusion through technology. The convention underscored the collective commitment to advancing accessibility and digital empowerment for the visually impaired community.

Making travel and hospitality sector inclusive

The "Making Travel and Hospitality Inclusive" convention focused on the travel and hospitality sectors for persons with disabilities. The panel discussion and workshop brought together industry visionaries, disability advocates, and service providers to discuss challenges and solutions, highlighting the importance of accessible and inclusive travel experiences. Key highlights included insights into airlines' and hotels' proactive measures for disabled travelers, discussions on successful strategies for inclusive service in the hospitality sector, and exploration of groundbreaking technologies shaping the future of accessibility in air travel. Real-life narratives and case studies illuminated existing hurdles faced by disabled travelers, emphasizing the need for improved infrastructure and services. Live demonstrations of adaptive devices and tools showcased practical solutions for crafting comfortable travel experiences, while discussions on embedding disability awareness in educational curriculums aimed to empower future hospitality and aviation professionals.

3rd International Conference on Indian Sign Language

The 3rd International Conference on Indian Sign Language (ISL), organized by the Indian Sign Language Interpretation Association in collaboration with the RCI approved International CRE with AJYNISH (D), Mumbai, was held on 6-7 January 2024. The conference brought together 75 Deaf and Hearing participants, including RCI registered sign language teachers, interpreters, special educators, and rehabilitation professionals. Keynote speakers such as Ms. Cedar Jones, Dr. Gayatri Ahuja, Mr. Sapan Jain, Mrs. Monica Punjabi Verma, Dr. Shilpa Lacy, Neil Fredrick, and Dr. Martin Mathew presented on various topics including DELT, constructive feedback, ethics, and the importance of sign language interpreting in higher education from the perspective of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The conference served as a platform for knowledge sharing and professional development in the field of sign language interpretation.



All State Disability Commissioners Meet

The All State Disability Commissioners Meet, curated by Mission Accessibility as part of the International Purple Fest, brought together disability commissioners and other noted dignitaries working in the field of disability sector. The workshop covered two main themes: first, the active role State Commissioners can play in upholding the rights of Persons with Disabilities under the RPwD Act, 2016, including ensuring compliance, addressing infringements, and facilitating access to justice. Second, the workshop focused on sensitizing Commissioners to the lived realities of the disabled, with interactive exercises like blindfolding and language barriers to emphasize the importance of accessibility tools like audio description and sign language. The event featured addresses from notable figures like Former Chief Justice of India U.U Lalit and Justice A.K Sikri, who stressed the need for practical action to implement disability legislation effectively. A key takeaway was the importance of Disability Commissions as vigilant guardians of disability rights.



Leprosy Convention

The Leprosy Convention held on January 12, 2024, aimed to raise awareness and promote a multidisciplinary approach to achieve Zero Leprosy. The event featured esteemed panelists, including government officials, medical experts, NGO representatives, and individuals impacted by leprosy. Discussions highlighted the role of NGOs and CSOs in advocating for solutions and addressing discrimination in education and employment. Presentations focused on dispelling misconceptions, providing epidemiological overviews, and sharing strategies for achieving Zero Leprosy. The event concluded with a commitment to repealing discriminatory laws and fostering collaborations to eliminate leprosy.



National Conclave on Deafblindness

The National Conclave on Deafblindness, organized by Sense International India and Caritas Goa, was a three-day event held from January 8 to 10, 2024, at Club Gasper De Dias, Miramar Goa. The conclave focused on Inclusive Education, Health, and Employment for Persons with Deafblindness. It included panel discussions, updates from the Abhi Prerna group of special educators, and sessions for parents and adults with Deafblindness and Multiple Disabilities. Key topics covered included sexual rights, reproductive health, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, and counseling principles. The event concluded with cultural performances by Persons with Deafblindness from different states. With 180 delegates from 23 states, the conclave facilitated meaningful discussions and collaboration towards improving the lives of those with Deafblindness.



Purple Aspirations: A symposium on Civil Service experience sharing

The Purple Aspirations symposium on Civil Service experience sharing, held on 12th January 2024 at the Secretariat, provided a platform for esteemed civil servants to share success stories and discuss challenges faced in their journeys. Curated by Ms. Ayushi, IAS currently posted in Goa, the event was inaugurated by the Honourable Chief Secretary of Goa, Dr. Puneet Kumar Goel.

Notable participants included Shri. Ajay Arora (IAS, Punjab cadre), Shri. Amit (Indian Foreign Service officer), Shri. Nilesh (IRS, currently posted in Delhi), Shri. Umesh (IRS, currently posted in Chandigarh), Ms. Aishwarya (IAS, currently posted in UP), Shri. Smaran Raj (IAS, currently posted in Andhra Pradesh).

The distinguished speakers shared strategies for improving accessibility in both physical and digital infrastructure. The symposium facilitated cross-state learning and collaboration, with active participation from college students eager to gain insights from experienced civil servants.



Media workshop on Disability representation in the mainstream media

The workshop on Disability representation in the mainstream media offered a dynamic and interactive platform for students of Don Bosco College, Panaji to engage with the nuances of disability portrayal in media. Led by former journalist and Inclusion specialist, Shruti Pushkarna, alongside Brotherhood's Satish Kapoor, the session delved into perceptions of disability in literature, advertisements, and films. Through screenings of We Care Film productions and discussions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, students gained deeper insights into the complexities and challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. Tasked with expressing their thoughts, students penned sensitive and thought-provoking pieces, signaling a promising future for empathetic journalism and inclusive media representation. The workshop aimed to dispel myths and empower future journalists to approach disability-related issues with empathy and inclusivity.



Convention on Down Syndrome by DSFI

The Down Syndrome Federation of India (DSFI) organized a Medical cum Therapy Camp for Persons with Down syndrome as part of the International Purple Fest. Specialists offered counseling services and met nearly 60 individuals with Down syndrome, providing guidance on various aspects of health and well-being. Parents had the opportunity to consult with specialists in endocrinology, pediatrics, orthopedics, mental health, vision, ENT, dentistry, and genetics, accompanied by their self-advocates. A panel discussion highlighted the challenges faced by self-advocates and provided insights on how to support them effectively. The event fostered connections among parents and paved the way for stronger self-advocacy within the Down syndrome community.

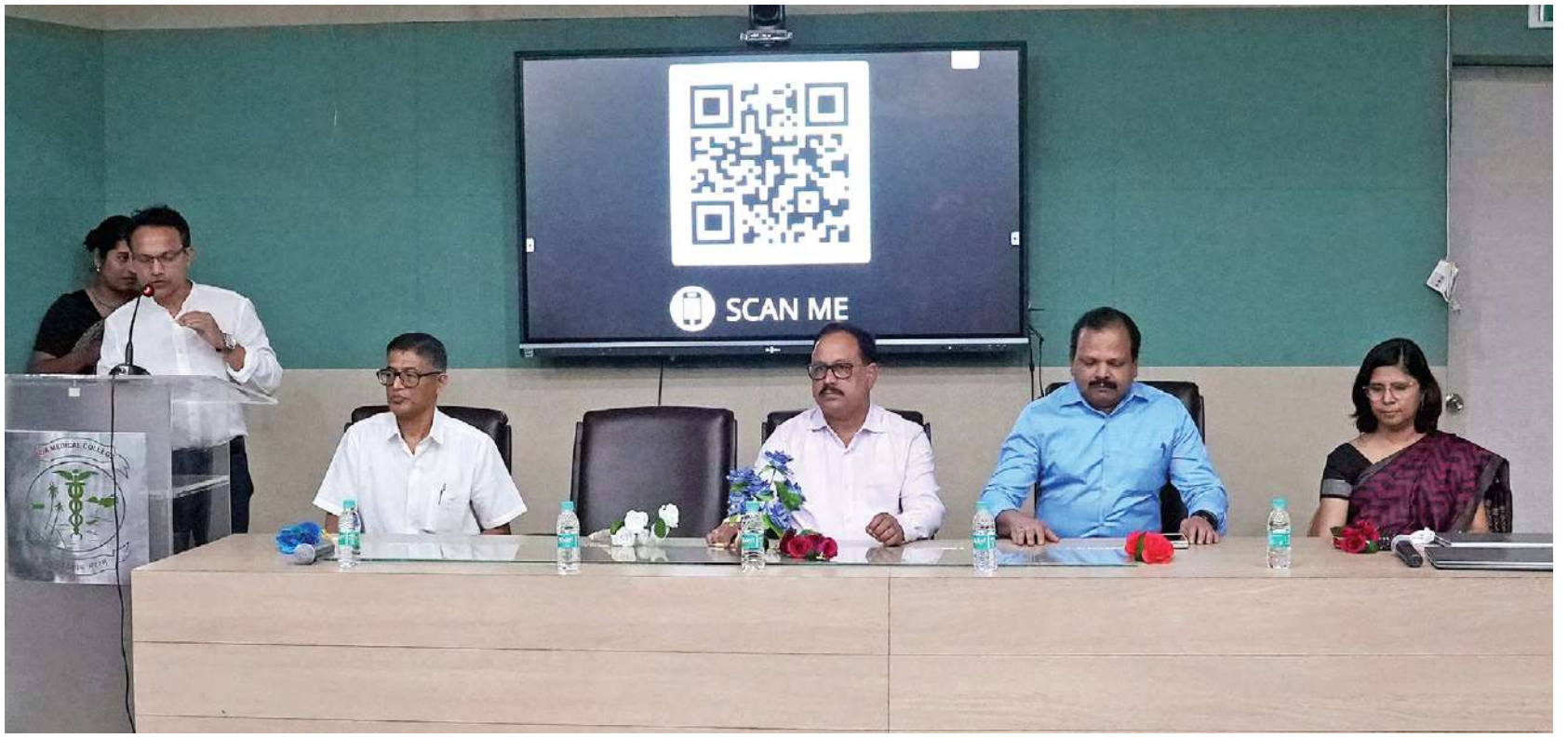


Conference on Hemophilia & Blood Disorders

The “Conference on Hemophilia & Blood Disorders,” curated by the Hemophilia Federation (India), aimed to raise awareness about blood disorders as invisible disabilities. The conference covered aspects of disability inclusivity, access to affordable treatment, and rehabilitation for conditions like Hemophilia, Thalassemia, and Sickle Cell Anemia.

Speakers included experts and advocates such as Dr. JS Arora, Mr. Lalit Pargi, and Mr. Balshiram, who provided insights from the Thalassemia, Sickle Cell Anemia, and Hemophilia perspectives, respectively. Discussions also focused on integrating these conditions into official disability frameworks.

The conference highlighted the importance of visibility and support for those with blood disorders, advocating for their inclusion in mainstream society. Overall, the event served as a platform to raise awareness, seek support, and make progress toward a more inclusive society for individuals with blood disorders.



National CME on Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics

The National CME on Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics, curated by the IAP chapter of Neurodevelopmental Pediatrics and IAP Goa, aimed to raise awareness on effective surveillance, screening, and intervention practices for developmental and behavioral issues. Held from January 12th to 13th, 2024, the event featured workshops and CME sessions to guide better outcomes and reduce disability impact. Inaugurated by Honorable Minister of Social Welfare Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai, the event saw the presence of dignitaries Dr. Shivanand Bandekar, Goa Medical College Dean and IAP Chapter Chairperson Dr. Leena Srivastava. Faculty members including Dr. Nandini Mundkur, Dr. Somasundaram, and Dr. Srinivas Raghavan contributed expertise, ensuring a well-received program coordinated by Dr. Vibha Parsekar and Developmental Pediatricians Dr. Aparna Wadkar and Dr. Elyska DSa from Goa.



Purple International Summit on Inclusive Education

The Purple International Summit on Inclusive Education, organised in partnership with the Rehabilitation Council of India, Delhi, the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai, the Global Inclusive Education Network (GIEN), Centre of Disabilities and Action, TISS, Mumbai, Brotherhood, Delhi, and Disability Rights Association of Goa was held from 9 to 11 January 2024. The summit brought together practitioners from India and abroad to share knowledge and innovation in inclusive education. The summit featured presentations on evidence-based research and insights, culminating in the compilation of a book that promises to revolutionize inclusive education practices. The event also included sessions on spirituality and disability, sexuality and disability, and personal experiences of individuals with disabilities, sparking meaningful conversations and challenging societal norms to pave the way for true inclusion.





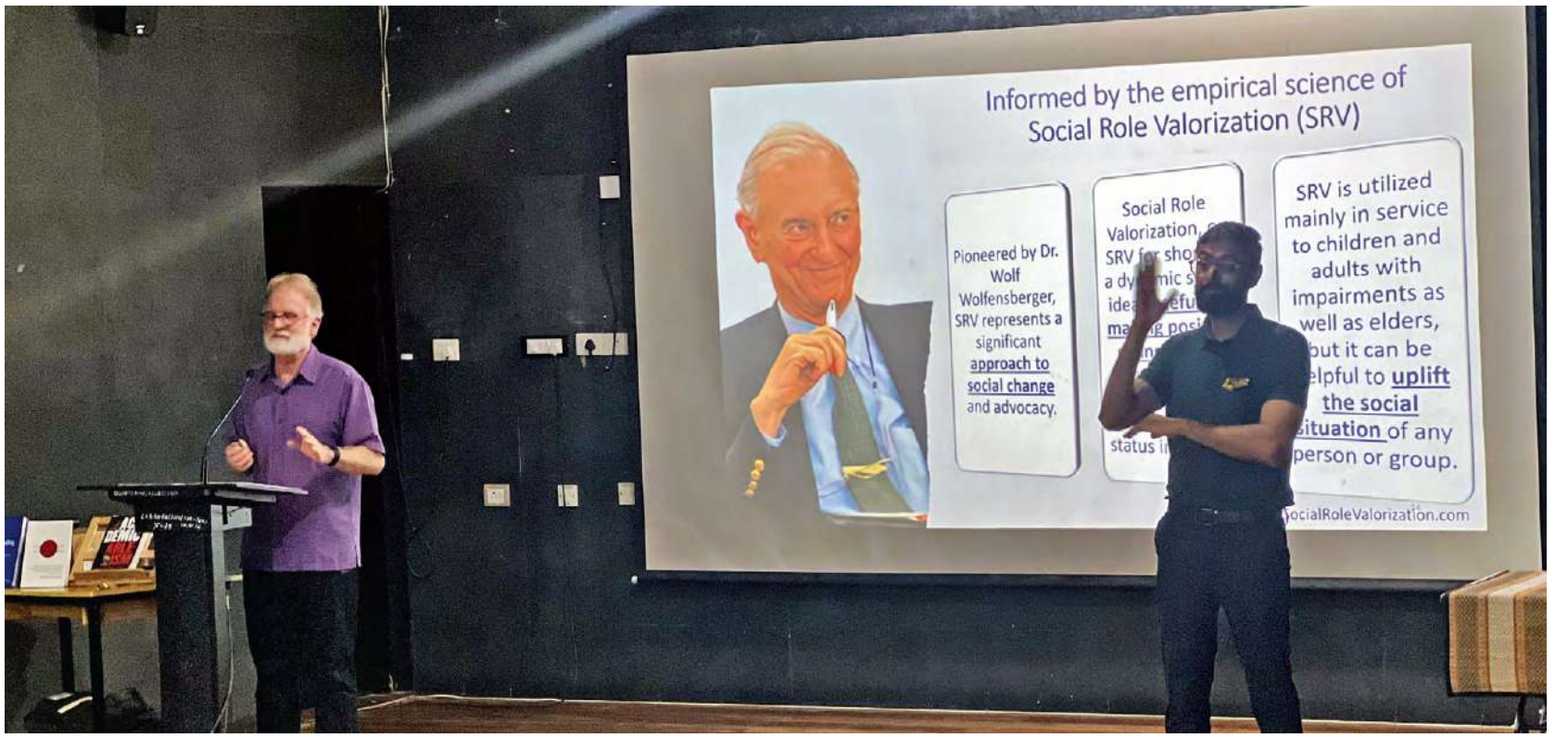
Advocates Conclave

The Advocates Conclave was a transformative session featuring a keynote address by Former Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit, emphasizing the need for sensitization and humanization of legal causes. Lalit highlighted the Supreme Court's strides in accessibility. Amar Jain and Rahul Bajaj of Mission Accessibility proposed systemic changes for disability friendliness within the justice system, including high-quality legal aid and sign language interpreters. Chief Justice DK Upadhyayy and Mahesh Sonak concluded with reflections, enriching the discourse on inclusivity and accessibility.



Convention on the Rehabilitation of People with Spinal Cord Injury

The Convention on the Rehabilitation of Spinal Cord Injury (SCI), curated by the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi, was a pivotal event held on January 10, 2024, at Goa Medical College. Esteemed speakers, including Prof. (Dr.) S M. Bandekar, Prof. (Dr.) Chitra Kataria, Dr. Divya Parashar, Dr. Randhir Lal Ranjan, Mr. Nekram Upadhyay, and Mr. Rajiv Virat, all from the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi, shared insights and expertise. The convention focused on key aspects such as the importance of active rehabilitation post-SCI, enhancing the quality of life post-injury, and the pivotal roles of Occupational Therapy, assistive technology, and wheelchair skills training.



Introduction to Social Role Valorization theory

The “Towards Authentic Inclusion and Belonging: A Glimpse of Social Role Valorization Theory” sessions, curated by Sangath and Keystone Institute India, were held at Maquinez Palace, ESG, Panaji on January 12, 2024. Led by Elizabeth Neuville, Geeta Mondol, Grace Daniel, and Percy Cardozo from Keystone Institute, these sessions aimed to introduce college students to the principles and practical applications of Social Role Valorization (SRV) theory.

SRV, proposed by W. Wolfernsberger, is a powerful concept that helps people with disabilities live meaningful lives by addressing society’s views and values. The sessions began with a reflection on the “Good Things of Life,” followed by discussions on challenges faced by marginalized individuals and ways to build inclusive practices through valued roles.



Frontiers of Inclusive Practice : Breaking the Barriers in Higher Education

The seminar on “Frontiers of Inclusive Practice: Breaking the Barriers in Higher Education,” held during the Purple Fest, was a collaborative effort by Sangath and the Keystone Institute India, in partnership with the Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance, and Public Policy at Goa University on January 10, 2024.

Distinguished guests, including Shri Bushan Sawaikar, Director of Higher Education Goa, and Senior Prof. Rajendra Gad, Dean of the Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance, and Public Policy, emphasized the importance of creating inclusive environments in higher education institutes, aligning with the National Education Policy 2020.

A highlight of the seminar was Dr. Thomas Neuville’s keynote lecture, a distinguished Professor of Disability Studies and Special Education from Millersville University, Pennsylvania, USA. Dr. Neuville shared insights from his experience in establishing inclusive programs at Millersville University, focusing on successful principles and strategies to integrate students with developmental disabilities across all aspects of university life.



Championing Inclusivity: Sharing Experiences in Employing Persons with Disabilities

The panel discussion on “Championing Inclusivity: Sharing Experiences in Employing Persons with Disabilities,” curated by Sangath and Keystone Institute India, in collaboration with the Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), was a significant dialogue during the International Purple Fest Goa, 2024. Held at the GCCI hall on January 8, 2023, the event provided a platform to showcase the successes of individuals with disabilities in the workplace and highlight their contributions.

The discussion featured inspiring narratives, including Alyx Albuquerque, Business Owner at Pumpkin Patch Design Studio, who shared a journey of purpose discovery. Rebecca Sikha, Creative Partner at Alyx’s, emphasized the power of collaboration. Suman John, Managing Director at Diya Innovations Pvt Ltd, illustrated the impact of providing opportunities, while Suresh P, Supervisor-Wood & Paper Unit at Diya Innovations Pvt Ltd, demonstrated the value of resilience through inclusive hiring. Neha Sathish, Lead of CSR & D&I- India at Thomson Reuters India, and Faisal Ashraf Nomani, Talent Acquisition at Randstad India, underscored the need for systematic organizational change. Akita Bahl, DLI Manager Asia at Soho House & Co, highlighted the importance of ongoing education for inclusivity.



Start-up Investors Meet

The ValuAble team recently curated a one-day startup workshop in collaboration with BITS Goa, bringing together the country's best minds in the startup world. This event aimed to merge innovative startup ideas with assistive technology solutions for persons with disabilities. The workshop featured keynote addresses from founders of pioneering startups like Neomotion, Torchit, Glovatrix, Ramp My City, Fifth Sense, and SaralX. Distinguished guests, including Shri. Shubhash Phal Dessai, Hon. Minister for Social Welfare, Goa, Dr. Mallika Nadda, President, Special Olympics Bharath, Hon'ble MLA of Bicholim Dr. Chandrakant Shetye, and Hon'ble MLA Ms. Jennifer Monserrate, graced the event, adding to its significance and impact.



South Asian Conference on Inclusive Education

The South Asian Conference on Inclusive Education, curated by the International Council for the Education of People with Visual Impairment West Asia Region (ICEVI WA), took place on January 9, 2024. This conference brought together participants from academia, schools, and organizations serving individuals with visual impairment in India, Nepal, and other South Asian countries. The focus was on finding solutions to overcome current barriers to inclusive education for learners with visual impairment and deafblindness, with a major emphasis on accessible technology.

Chaired by Dr. Birendra Raj Pokharel, President of ICEVI West Asia, the event featured a range of insightful sessions. Dr. Bhushan Punani, General Secretary of BPA and first Vice President of ICEVI Global, spoke on the “Importance of New Education Policy on promotion of inclusive education.” Mr. Prashant Ranjan Verma, Accessibility Specialist at DAISY Consortium, discussed “Creating the best way to reading and publishing,” while Dr. Homiyar Mobedji from Benetech presented on “Importance of access to digital material for education in developing countries.”

Mr. Hunny Bhagchandani, Founder of Torchit, led a session on making technology accessible, appropriate, and affordable. Ms. Ismarika Pokharel, an ICEVI Youth Champion from Nepal, shared her experiences on the challenges faced in developing countries accessing technology-based education and assessment systems. Mr. Shyam Krishna covered the topic of the development of Nepali Text To Speech “TTS,” showcasing Hear To Read’s work in technical guidance by Mr. Suresh Basaj and locally coordinated by Action on Disability Rights And Development- Nepal (ADRAD). The conference provided a platform for meaningful discussions and insights into advancing inclusive education in the region.



Convention on Inclusive STEM Education

The Inclusive STEM Education sessions, conducted by Ms. Poonam Deokar from XRCVC, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, focused on exploring inclusive STEM education possibilities for students with disabilities, particularly those with visual impairment. The sessions discussed innovative strategies to make STEM concepts accessible to all, emphasizing creativity and adaptability in developing inclusive classrooms and laboratories. Participants gained insights into the latest advancements in assistive technologies and pedagogical strategies for inclusive STEM education, with practical knowledge they could apply in their educational settings.

The sessions also highlighted success stories in STEM from individuals with visual impairment, emphasizing the importance of creating inclusive environments where everyone can thrive and contribute to advancing science and technology regardless of their disabilities. Overall, the sessions fostered meaningful dialogue, exchange of ideas, and collective action towards creating a more inclusive and equitable STEM education landscape.



Purple Progress

Purple Progress, held on January 9th, 2024, as part of the International Purple Fest in Goa, served as a comprehensive exploration of neurodiversity's impact on building a better India. The event, organized by Sethu, aimed to create awareness, foster positive attitudes, inspire allyship, and showcase the benefits of neurodiversity through lived experiences and success stories. Divided into four sessions, the event delved into micro, mezzo, and macro-level issues and impacts, addressing individual, community, and institutional aspects.

In the micro-level session, emphasis was placed on individual and familial impacts, featuring talks by Dr. Nandita Desouza on Family- Centred Care, Elizabeth Kurian's parenting journey with an autistic son, and Srutesh Kerkar's empowering journey with Williams Syndrome. Mezzo-level discussions centered around school and community impacts, with insights from Jo Chopra, Selena Desouza, and Aditi Gangrade, emphasizing the importance of inclusive practices and social media in promoting neurodiversity. The macro-level session, focused on institutions and policies, included a recorded talk by Rahul Jindal from Google India and Vaibhav Datta's lived experience, highlighting the need for awareness, advocacy, allyship, and inclusive government initiatives for neurodivergent individuals in the workforce.

Following these sessions, focused group discussions addressed concerns such as health insurance, inclusive education policies, long-term care, and standardization of disability assessments. Recommendations included leveraging government schemes like Niramaya Health Insurance, creating resources through the Office of the Disabilities Commissioner, establishing vocational training centers through government schemes, implementing at-home care models, and standardizing disability assessments for enhanced awareness and benefits. The event concluded with a unanimous agreement to conduct a census of persons with disabilities in Goa, collaborating with Goa University for research purposes, to better understand and address the specific needs of the disabled community in the state.



PURPLE EXHIBITION ZONE

PURPLE EXHIBITION ZONE



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


DIVYA KALA MELA
INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST, GOA


DIVYA KALA MELA
INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST, GOA
8th to 13th January, 2024
Sunita Gupta
Personal Accessories
Rajasthan
DIVYA KALA MELA
INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST, GOA
8th to 13th January, 2024
Vaibhav Tan
Sangle
Painting & Artw
Maharashtr
DIVYA KALA MELA
INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST, GOA
DIVYA KALA MELA
INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST, GOA
POOJA FANCY AND JEWELLERY
DAUSA (RAJASTHAN)

PURPLE EXHIBITION ZONE






IDEA
SAKSHAM BHARAT
SAMARTH BHARAT
सक्षम भारत समर्थ भारत
NEHA JAIN
VIDISHA
IDEA


INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FESTIVAL - GOA 2024

PURPLE EXHIBITION ZONE







PURPLE SPECTRUM



West Zone Regional Abilympics - 2024

The West Zone Regional Abilympics 2024, organized in collaboration with the National Abilympic Association of India (NAAI) and Sarthak Educational Trust, marked a significant milestone in empowering persons with disabilities (PwDs) through skill development and competition. Held in Panaji from January 11th to 13th, 2024, the event brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds to showcase their talents and abilities across various skill categories.

The inauguration ceremony, graced by Hon'ble Dr. Mallika Nadda, Chairperson of Special Olympics Bharat, set the stage for a spirited competition. Phase-1 selections identified 15 skills encompassing ICT, Crafts, Food/ Hospitality, and Services, laying the foundation for an engaging and diverse competition.

A total of 168 participants demonstrated their proficiency and determination, vying for excellence in their respective fields. The culmination of the event saw 27 outstanding PwDs emerge as champions, claiming the top three spots in their chosen skills.












NAAI







All India 12th Matrimonial Meet across Disability

The All India 12th Matrimonial Meet across Disability was organized in collaboration with the Voice Vision Project of Basudeo Bubna Memorial Trust. The event held on the 10th of January, 2024 at Kala Academy in Panaji, brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds and regions, transcending barriers to facilitate meaningful connections and potential life partnerships. Supported by Kanoria Chembond, Ezee, Sunil Patodia Welfare Foundation, and Lions Club Heritage Galaxy, the matrimonial meet attracted 13 women, 29 men accompanied by 25 escorts from 15 cities across 11 states to participate in the event.

The inauguration ceremony, graced by esteemed dignitary Dr. Mallika Nadda, Chairperson of Special Olympics Bharat. The matrimonial meet not only facilitated potential life partnerships but also served as a beacon of hope and empowerment for individuals with disabilities, affirming their inherent dignity, worth, and right to love and companionship.



Purple Street

The ‘Purple Street’ initiative, curated by Dhanashri Shirgaonker, Rehabilitation Vocational Instructor and Special Educator and Anuja Parab, Special Educator both from Goa, provided a platform for persons with disabilities to showcase their talents, transforming the Kala Academy lawns into a vibrant community space. The event featured performances by over 800 individuals with disabilities, along with engaging activities like Zumba and Hoola hoops. Additionally, 50 live workstations manned by persons with disabilities of all ages, as well as stalls from special schools showcased a wide range of talents and abilities. From pottery to Kunabi Saree weaving, fancy jewelry to handicrafts, and food stalls to mehndi and live painting stations, the ‘Purple Street’ attracted a large crowd and successfully highlighted the talents of persons with disabilities.





12th All India Deaf Cultural Festival - 2024

Curated by the Goa Association of the Deaf in collaboration with the All India Deaf Arts and Cultural Society, New Delhi, the 12th All India Deaf Cultural Festival took place on January 12th and 13th, 2024. The festival featured competitions in three categories: Dance, Drama, and Mime, drawing participants from Assam, Delhi, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, and Goa. Winners and runners-up were awarded in each category, along with special prizes. The winning team for Dance and Mime hailed from Assam, while the Drama category was won by a team from Madhya Pradesh.



Purple International We Care Film Festival

The “Purple International We Care Film Festival,” organized by the International Purple Fest in partnership with the United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan, the Apeejay Institute of Mass Communication, DRAG Goa, the DME Noida, and Brotherhood Delhi, was held from 8 to 13 January 2024. The festival featured over 117 films from India and overseas, celebrating inclusivity, diversity, and the indomitable spirit of individuals with disabilities. With a staggering audience of 15,000 people, the festival left attendees inspired and enlightened by the impactful stories that transcend boundaries.



NHRDN Corporate Pagoda

The “Corporate Pagoda,” curated by the National HRD Network and supported by various organizations, was a multi-faceted event focused on diversity and inclusion. The event featured a Diversity and Inclusion Walkathon that brought together people with and without disabilities, challenging stereotypes. A panel discussion highlighted by industry experts provided valuable insights and facts on inclusion. Dynamic sessions, including Speed-o-Mentoring and Accelerate Your Dreams, empowered individuals to pursue their aspirations. The event also included a heartwarming Lego Therapy Workshop organized by Tata Power to develop social communication skills in autistic children. The exhibition area showcased best practices and innovative products from over 28 corporates and social organizations, including disability accessories, Braille learning devices, and prosthetic technology, among others.


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DISHA

Purple Parivaar

Prple Parivaar, a groundbreaking initiative by Sethu at the International Purple Fest in Goa 2024, served as a dynamic platform promoting family-centered care in the realm of disability. This successful endeavor was made possible through collaborative efforts with esteemed organizations like NIMHANS Bangalore, Latika Dehradun, and TIES Parent Group in Goa. The initiative aimed to celebrate the pivotal role of families in empowering individuals with disabilities, offering diverse activities such as information desks, mini-workshops, and experiential community art.

The Purple Parivaar experience spanned five days from January 9th to 13th, attracting families and professionals in the disability space. Information desks provided insights into crucial topics like Family Centred Services, Parent Mental Health, Childhood Sexuality, Neurodiversity, Inclusive Education, and Independence and Social Welfare Benefits. Mini-workshops covering 20 topics, including Social Welfare Benefits and Making Handwriting Fun, engaged 62 participants, comprising both parents and professionals. Additionally, families participated in the DOSTI Program, promoting socialization and inclusion through games, art, craft, and yoga sessions.

The culmination of Purple Parivaar showcased a remarkable community art project titled “Make your Mark on the Path to Inclusion.” Facilitated by Elizabeth Kemp, a Public Artist from Scotland, this event brought together a diverse array of participants, including students, young people, disability self-advocates, professionals, and families. The project utilized basic resources like colored chalk and a cemented pathway, resulting in a visually striking representation of creativity and inclusivity within the Purple Parivaar community.





PURPLE KALEIDOSCOPE

Art-Able

Art-Able curated by Siddhant Shah and Nirali Shah of Access For ALL, offered a rich tapestry of inclusive artistic experiences. Featuring ten finely crafted tactile Braille artworks by Access For ALL, the Tactile Braille Art Exhibition showcased intricate pieces for all to appreciate. The Multi-Sensory Art Corner provided an interactive space, engaging participants in a holistic artistic experience beyond sight. Over 750 individuals with disabilities benefited from Dance & Movement Art Therapy sessions, promoting self-expression and emotional release. Inclusive Sensory Engagement Workshops welcomed over 1000 participants, fostering creativity and a sense of belonging within the artistic community. Blindfold Art Workshops encouraged participants to explore art through alternative sensory channels, raising awareness of visual impairment. Additionally, the Teacher Training Program, led by Nirali Shah and Siddhant Shah, enhanced the skills of 65 Special Educators in Art Integrated Learning, ensuring inclusive educational practices aligned with national policies.





The Purple Expressions: Music and Art workshop

The Purple Expressions: Music and Art workshop, organized by uniRISE Foundation and Grailmaker Innovations, ran from January 8th to 13th, 2024, drawing a diverse audience aged 5 to 76. Participants crafted tactile 3D flowers and collaborated on a large canvas, while the innovative Purple Bench provided a unique musical experience. This blend of art, music, and movement encouraged individual expression in an inclusive environment, impacting both participants and observers. School teachers found new ways to incorporate tactile art into their teaching, recognizing the versatility of the Purple Bench. Special educators saw the value of tactile art in engaging students and improving skills, and parents were inspired to introduce art and music at home for therapeutic benefits.

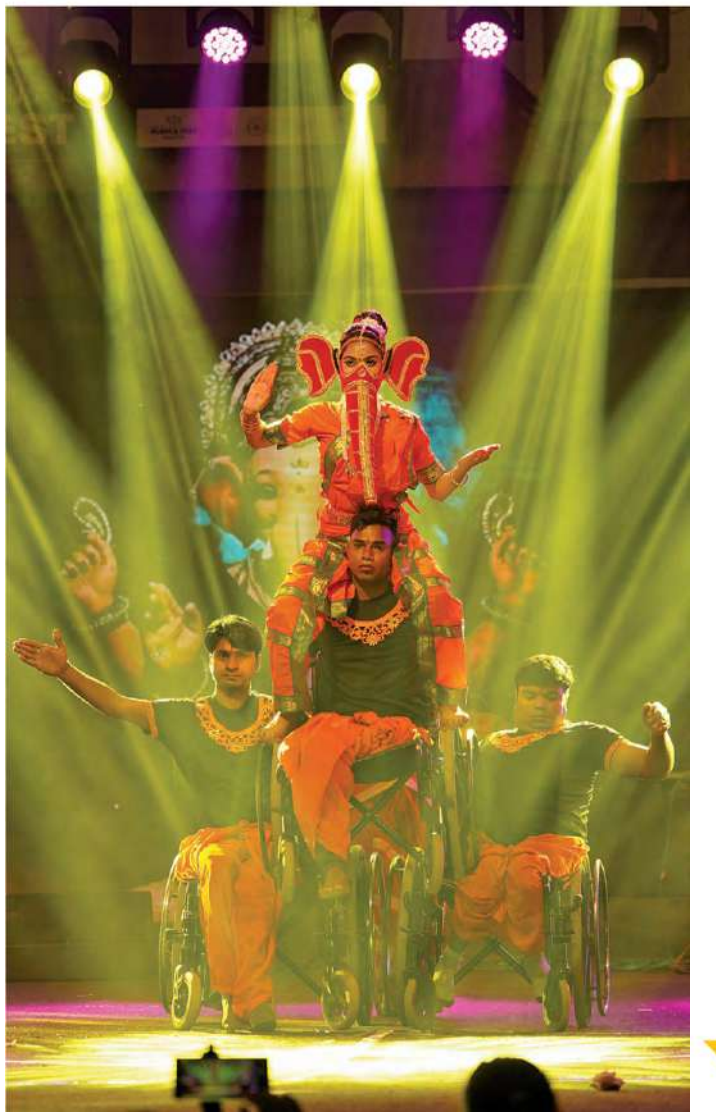


PURPLE RAIN

Entertainment for ALL

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







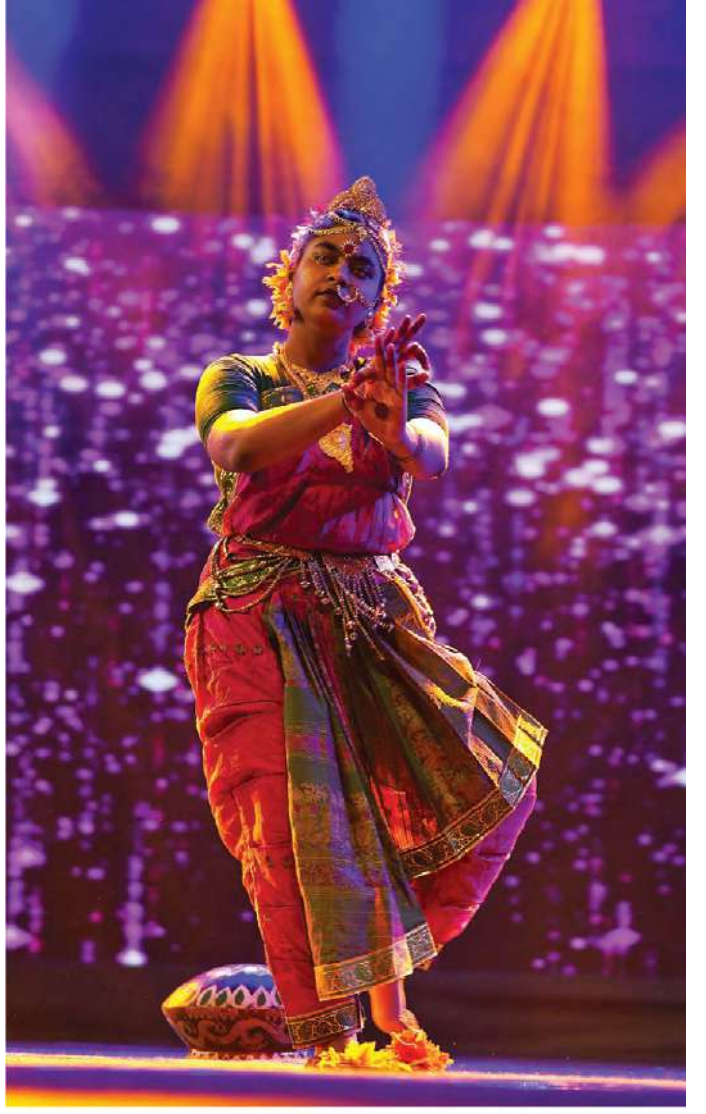
DAY 1 : The inaugural day of the International Purple Fest set the stage ablaze with a kaleidoscope of talent, proving to be a remarkable platform for artists with disabilities. Each act illuminated the festival with a unique brilliance, underscoring the profound impact of inclusion in the world of art. The first day of Purple Rain became a testament to the abilities and untapped potential within the community of artists with disabilities.

Musal Dance by Goan Artists with Disabilities

On the grand inauguration day, the International Purple Fest witnessed a spectacular showcase of Goan culture through the unique Musal Dance, performed by Goan Artists with Disabilities. The Musal Dance, traditionally performed during harvest time in Chandor, the ancient capital of Goa, involves rhythmic movements with a pounding stick called 'Musal.' This enchanting display not only celebrated Goan culture but also demonstrated the power of inclusivity in preserving and evolving traditional art forms.

Alice

Alice, a person with deafblindness, illuminated the stage with her mesmerizing performance of the ancient West Bengal dance forms, Goudi and Nipdo. Rooted in a rich tradition dating back 2000 years, these dance forms hold cultural significance in the state. Alice, who has been learning classical dance from her childhood, draws her inspiration and guidance from her mother, her devoted guru.



Ananya Halankar

Ananya Halankar, diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder in her youth, emerged as a beacon of inspiration through her extraordinary performance. Having achieved Sangeet Visharad in Hindustani Classical Music, she is currently pursuing a Master's degree in the same discipline. The audience was treated to a magical moment as Ananya shared the stage with renowned Indian artist Hema Sardesai, showcasing not only her remarkable musical talent but also breaking barriers and enchanting hearts with her soulful singing.



Hema Sardesai

Hema Sardesai, the acclaimed Indian playback singer and lyricist, brought a storm of energy to the inauguration day of the International Purple Fest. Setting the stage ablaze, Hema not only enthralled the audience with her captivating tunes but also created a moment of pure joy as persons with disabilities and dignitaries joined her on stage dancing to the enchanting tunes.



Day 2 of the Purple Rain unfurled a captivating tapestry of talent. Goa's own Shane Antonio with three decades of musical prowess, took center stage. Alongside, the Happy Human Foundation Malkhamb group elevated the spectacle with their awe-inspiring performance, leaving the audience mesmerized.

Shane Antonio

Shane Antonio, a seasoned performer from Goa and one of the voices behind the International Purple Fest theme song, captivated the audience on the second day of the festival. With a musical journey spanning three decades, Shane brought his wealth of experience to the center stage.





DAY 3: On Day 3 of the Purple Fest, the Purple Rain zone came alive with a mix of Marathi, Telugu, and Hindi music. A powerful dance performance added to the celebration, making it a memorable fusion of cultural richness.

Akshar Band

Akshar Band, the rock sensation hailing from Hyderabad, made an unforgettable impact on the third day of the Purple Fest, enhancing the festival atmosphere with their distinctive rock style. Since their inception in 2012, this musical powerhouse has gained acclaim for skillfully blending regional influences into their captivating live shows.

Vinod Thakur

The Purple Rain stage on the third day of the International Purple Fest witnessed a spectacle of extraordinary dance skills as Vinod Thakur and his wife Raksha Thakur took center stage. In a mesmerizing display of talent, Vinod, a person with locomotor disability, left the audience in awe with his unforgettable performance.



Avdhoot Gupte

On the third day, Purple Rain stage became a pulsating rhythm of joy as Avdhoot Gupte, a renowned music artist, composer, and producer, graced the audience with a musical spectacle that transcended boundaries. With a repertoire adorned with chart-topping songs, his concert became the heartbeat of the festival.





As the sun set on the fourth day of the fest, the Purple Rain Zone transformed into a captivating canvas of diverse talents.

Pehli Baarish Band

The Pehli Baarish Band took center stage, casting a spell with their electrifying performance that left the audience in awe. Founded by playback singer and Trinayani's Founder-Trustee, Ritika Sahni, this extraordinary band harmoniously brings together artists, both with and without disabilities, creating a symphony of diverse talents.

Diwakar Sharma

Renowned singer from Delhi, Diwakar Sharma graced the stage with his enchanting performance, leaving the audience in awe. Known for his versatile singing style, he has shared the stage with esteemed singers and musicians, captivating audiences with his soulful renditions.



Vikas Sawant

Vikas Sawant, a Mumbai-based professional dancer and choreographer, thrilled the audience with his extraordinary Bollywood style dance performance on the second day of the fest. Notably, Vikas and his talented team, all individuals with Dwarfism, showcased their remarkable skills, leaving the audience tapping their feet in sheer delight. Their performance not only celebrated dance as a universal language but also shattered stereotypes, emphasizing the boundless possibilities within the world of entertainment.



DAY 4: Sudesh Bhosale and Goan Children with Disabilities

On the fourth day of the Purple Fest, the stage witnessed a captivating collaboration between the renowned Indian playback singer Sudesh Bhosale and Goan Children with Disabilities. Their collective presence on stage not only showcased the power of music to unite diverse talents but also exemplified the spirit of inclusion that defines the Purple Fest.





Victory Dance Group

The Victory Dance Group graced the stage, bringing the spirit of inclusion and artistic expression to the forefront. Founded by the visionary Shiamak Davar in 2004, the Victory Arts Foundation (VICTORY) has been on a mission to make dance accessible to the less privileged and children with disabilities. This noble initiative aims to empower individuals through the transformative power of dance.



DAY 5: On the spectacular fifth day of the Fest, a symphony of talent and resilience unfolded, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of the audience.

Nav Utthan Group

On the fifth day of the Fest, the Nav Utthan Group showcased the spirit of resilience and artistry through a mesmerizing wheelchair dance. As the artists took center stage, their captivating performance left the audience spellbound. Established in Delhi in 2013, the Nav Utthan Group has showcased their talent at various prestigious events.



Flowing Karma Band

Flowing Karma Band is India's pioneering music ensemble on wheels. Conceived in November 2019 by the visionary Nicky P Kaur, Founder-CEO of Chandigarh Spinal Rehab Centre, this extraordinary band is composed entirely of wheelchair users who found their rhythm at the center. The band's spirited performance on the fifth day of the International Purple Fest not only resonated with the audience but also set the stage alive.



Kamlesh Patel

Kamlesh Patel, hailed as the Pride of Baroda, took center stage with a captivating dance performance. Paralyzed in both legs, Patel's dynamic dance moves with his hands mesmerized the audience. Patel has been a familiar face on television, making memorable appearances on programs such as Dance India Dance, Shabaash India, Boogie Woogie, and as an esteemed guest on The Great Indian Laughter Challenge.



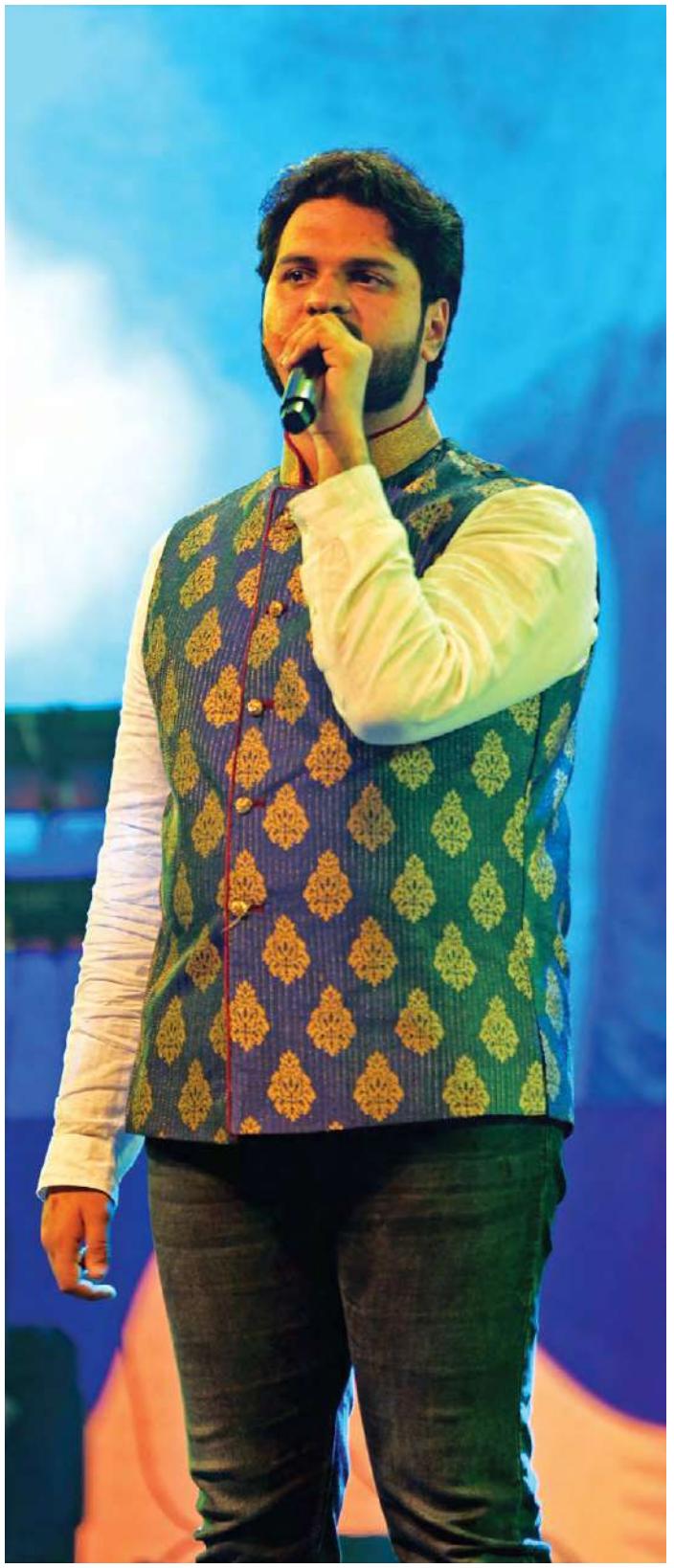
Sushant Divgikar

Sushant Divgikar, India's prominent Drag icon, whose mesmerizing performance on the festival's fifth day captivated the audience. A genuine maestro, Sushant's onstage presence illuminated the event, crafting a musical experience that lingers in memory. Known as Rani KoHEnur, Sushant is not only an actor and drag artist but also an LGBTQIA+ activist, identifying as a gender-fluid trans person.

As the festival neared its culmination, Purple Rain continued to shower the audience with awe-inspiring performances and the resounding message that art knows no boundaries.

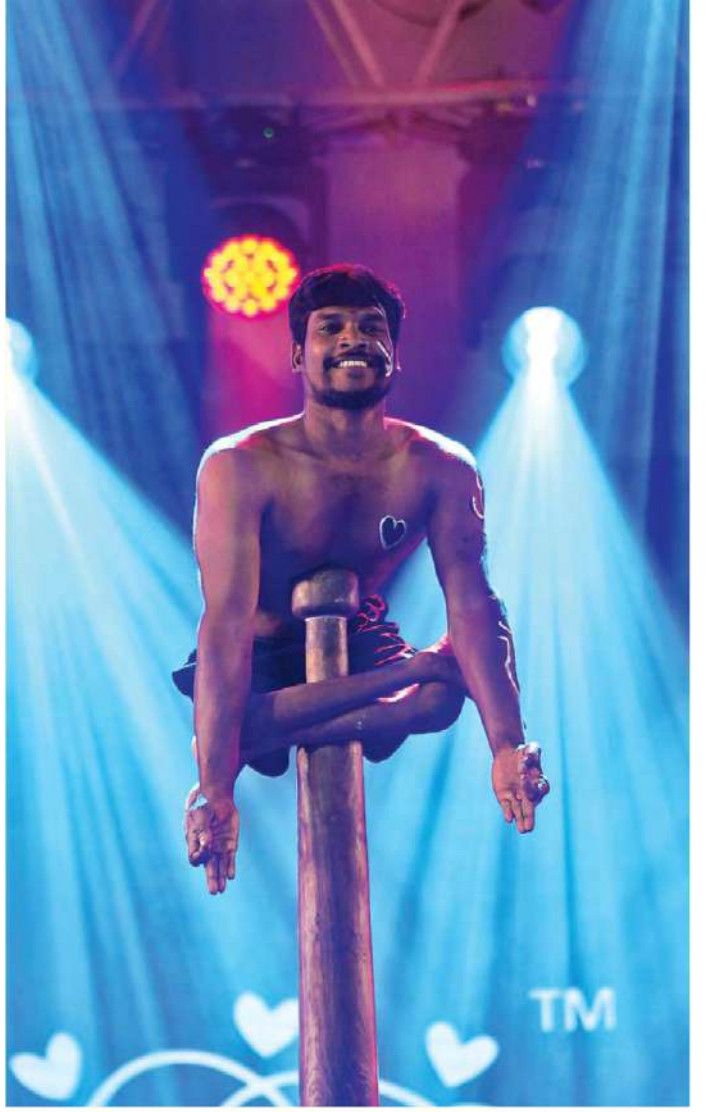
Karthik Kumar Krishnamurthy

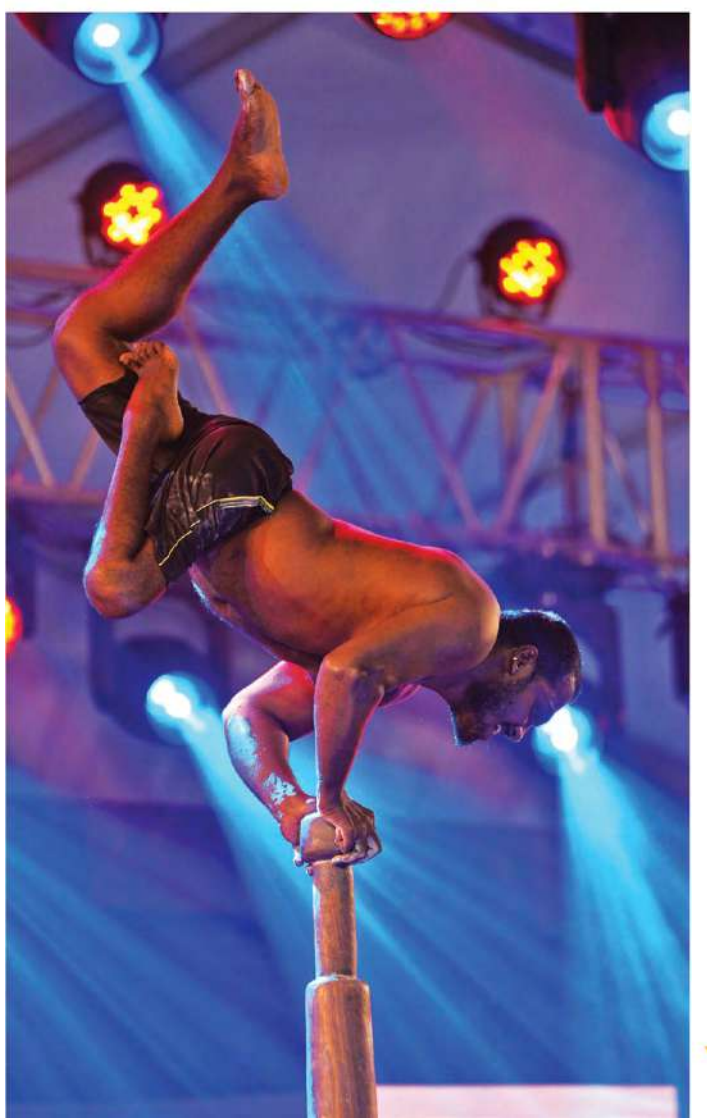
Karthik Kumar Krishnamurthy, a gifted singer from Chennai living with Autism, emerged as a musical sensation on the last day of the fest. Despite facing challenges in verbal communication, Karthik's soulful voice spoke volumes, captivating the audience with its sheer brilliance. Rising to the limelight currently through the singing reality show Sa Re Ga Ma Pa, his performance left an indelible mark, showcasing the power of music.



DAY 6: Kai Kodukum Kai Mallakhamb Group

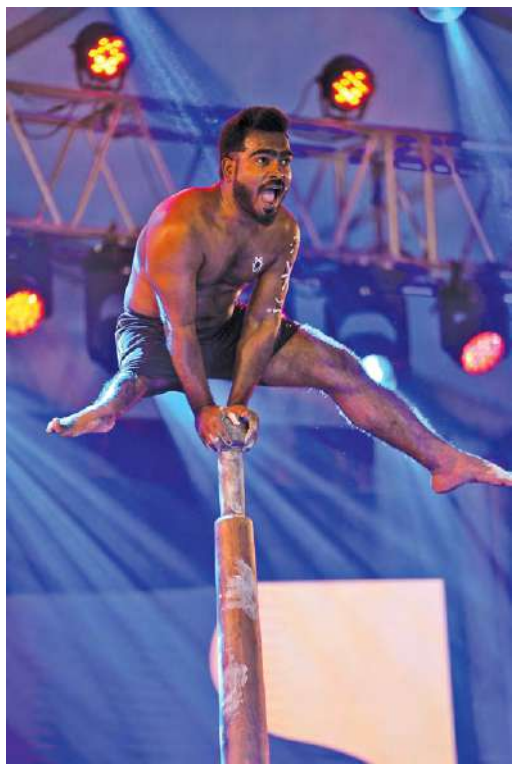
The ‘Kai Kodukum Kai’ Mallakhamb group from Tamil Nadu brought sheer awe to the audience with their power-packed performance on the sixth day of the fest. Part of the dance group of Raghav Lawrence, a renowned Tamil film personality, they showcased their prowess in Mallakhamb, leaving spectators spellbound. With a track record of performances on South Indian TV shows and stages across India, their dynamic and captivating display of Mallakhamb dance added a thrilling dimension to the festival.






INTERNATIONAL
PURPLE FEST
GOA 2024





DAY 6: Victory Dance Group with Goan Children with Disabilities

Last day the stage was illuminated by the enchanting performances of the Victory Dance Group and Goan Children with Disabilities. Founded in 2004 by the visionary Shiamak Davar, the Victory Arts Foundation (VICTORY) has been on a mission to bring the transformative power of dance to the less privileged and children with disabilities. This collaboration showcased the essence of inclusivity as Goan Children with Disabilities were specially trained by the Victory Dance Group to deliver a heartwarming performance at the International Purple Fest.

Kailash Kher

On the closing day, the audience was treated to a musical extravaganza by the renowned singer Kailash Kher. His soulful and energetic performance on the last day had everyone tapping their feet to the infectious tunes. Kher's magnetic stage presence, coupled with his powerful voice, created an electrifying atmosphere, concluding the festival on a high note. The concert was a celebration of music's universal appeal, bringing people together to revel in the joy of Kailash Kher's remarkable tunes.



PURPLE FUN

PURPLE FUN

The Purple Fun section, a beacon of inclusion at the International Purple Fest, is dedicated to providing persons with disabilities the chance to enjoy different fun activities often hindered by various barriers. With a mission to promote inclusive practices, the Purple Fun showcased how diverse activities can be accessed by everyone. The response from both delegates with disabilities and those without has been overwhelming, emphasizing the universal appeal of these activities. Our heartfelt thanks go to our inclusion partners for ensuring that each activity is accessible, making the Purple Fun experience truly inclusive for everyone.



Yoga For All

Curator : Arpita Roy, Yoga Instructor from Hyderabad

The Yoga For All session, curated under the Purple Fun segment, transcended barriers and welcomed all participants. In this inclusive yoga experience, people with and without disabilities came together to embrace the transformative power of yoga. Arpita Roy's thoughtful curation created a space where individuals, regardless of their disabilities, united for the Yoga, fostering a sense of inclusion and well-being.





Bird Trail

Curator: Arannya, a non-profit organization from Goa

The Bird Trail at Carambolim Lake was a transformative experience, serving as the first profound encounter with the world of birds for many participants. Beyond celebrating avian diversity, this trail exemplified a commitment to ensuring that everyone, regardless of disability, could revel in the beauty of nature. Braille pamphlets, physical accessibility measures, audio calls, models, and sign language interpretation were incorporated to ensure that everyone could fully appreciate the beauty of nature.



Purple Bioscope

Curators : Saksham, Delhi and TOC, Delhi

In a cinematic celebration at Inox, Entertainment Society of Goa, Panaji, the Purple Fest showcased three iconic films - “Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro,” “Rocky aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani,” and “12th fail.” To ensure that everyone could enjoy the magic of the big screen, the movies were equipped with Sign Language Interpretation, Audio Narration, and Closed Captions. This initiative aimed to break down accessibility barriers, emphasizing that entertainment is for all. By embedding these features, the Purple Fest conveyed a powerful message: the joy of cinema should be a shared experience, accessible to everyone, irrespective of their disabilities.



Drum Circle

Curators : M.A.M.A Drum Circle, Goa

The Drum Circle activity at the International Purple Fest garnered an overwhelming response from participants, both with and without disabilities. To ensure inclusion, Sign Language Interpretation was provided, and detailed instructions were given to ensure everyone could actively engage. The joy echoed through the beats as many expressed their delight, with Deaf individuals particularly rejoicing in the opportunity to play Djembes. For numerous delegates with disabilities, this Drum Circle marked a momentous occasion, providing them the chance to explore something new and truly enjoyable.



Cruise Ride

The Cruise Ride organized at the International Purple Fest was not just a voyage on the picturesque Mandovi River in Panaji; it was a testament to the festival's commitment to inclusion and joy for all. Recognizing the challenges faced by people with disabilities in enjoying such experiences, physical accessibility measures were meticulously attended, including accessible transportation for picking up and dropping off delegates. Sign Language Interpreters were onboard, enriching the experience for everyone. Against the scenic backdrop, the Cruise Ride with a DJ arrangement garnered an overwhelming response.



Inclusive Car Rally

Curated by Saksham, Delhi and supported by ProSports, the Inclusive Car Rally unfolded as a remarkable event on the final day of the fest. An inspiring collaboration where 45 individuals with blindness joined forces with 45 sighted participants, breaking down barriers and fostering inclusivity. In this unique rally, visually impaired individuals assumed the role of navigators, adeptly reading instructions in Braille and guiding their drivers through checkpoints. The event not only showcased the capabilities of people with visual impairments but also challenged and reshaped preconceived notions, creating an unforgettable experience.



Tandem Cycling

Tandem Cycling, an inclusive activity organized at the Kala Academy, brought joy, camaraderie, and a sense of empowerment. Curated by the Happy Human Foundation, this unique cycling experience brought together individuals with and without disabilities, showcasing the beauty of shared fun and adventure.

Tandem Cycles, featuring two seats synchronized through a timing chain, offered a unique experience where both riders could pedal simultaneously at the same rate. The setup involves a person without a disability, known as the Captain, seated in the front, responsible for pedaling and steering the cycle. The rear seat is occupied by an individual with a disability, the Stoker, providing pedaling support.

PURPLE FUN







PURPLE SPORTS



Blind Football Tournament

The Blind Football Tournament held from January 9th to January 13th, 2024, at Don Bosco High School ground in Panaji was a remarkable event. Organized in association with the Indian Blind Football Federation (IBFF), the tournament brought together seven teams, comprising four male teams and three female teams, from Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala, and Goa. The tournament provided a platform for people with Blindness to showcase their talent and compete at a high level. In an impressive display of skill and teamwork, the Gujarat teams emerged victorious in both the male and female categories. The Kerala teams, both male and female, put up a commendable fight throughout the tournament, earning the title of runners-up.



International chess championship for blind and visually impaired



The International Chess Championship for Blind and Visually Impaired, held at Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium in Bambolim, Goa, from January 8th to January 13th, 2024, was a testament to the indomitable spirit and skill of chess players with blindness from around the world. Organized in collaboration with the International Braille Chess Association and the All India Chess Federation for the Blind, the event drew participation from 31 players representing six different countries. Competitors from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Sweden, Austria, USA, and India converged in Goa to engage in a battle of intellect and strategy.

The tournament, conducted in the Swiss league system comprised seven rounds. In a fiercely contested competition, Patra Subhendu Kumar from Odisha emerged as the victor, demonstrating exceptional skill and determination throughout the tournament. Kishan Gangolli from Karnataka secured the second position, followed closely by Magnusson Jorgen from Sweden in third place. Noteworthy performances also came from Kimsanboyev Axadxon from Uzbekistan, Marimuthu K from Tamil Nadu, and Venkat Reddy S from Andhra Pradesh, who secured the fourth, fifth, and sixth positions, respectively.



Boccia

The Boccia tournament, held on January 9th and 10th, in association with Ektha Trust from Tamil Nadu, brought together players from across India. Hosted at Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar High School in Cujira, Bambolim, the tournament attracted 42 players from nine states, including Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and Maharashtra. The event commenced with classifications on January 9th and on January 10th, the intensity soared as players took to the courts to showcase their prowess in the BC2, BC3, and BC4 categories.

In the BC2 category, Sarita Dwivedi from Uttar Pradesh clinched the gold medal, with Sagar Raghavendra from Karnataka securing silver and Shahzad Ali from Madhya Pradesh earning bronze. In the BC3 category, Komal Vyas from Madhya Pradesh emerged victorious, while Gayatri from Tamil Nadu claimed the silver medal. The BC4 category witnessed an impressive display of skill, with Selvam from Tamil Nadu capturing the gold medal, Moises Rodrigues from Goa taking silver, and Dinesh Sidragavalli from Karnataka earning bronze.



Goalball

Organized in association with Happy Human Inclusive Sports from Mumbai, the Goalball tournament took place at Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar High School in Cujira, Bambolim, on January 12th and 13th. The game was played by individuals with less than 10 percent vision, classified as B3, B2, or B1. Players wore opaque eyeshades throughout the competition to ensure fair play and equal opportunity for all. Thirty-three visually impaired athletes from across the country converged at the venue, ready to showcase their skills and passion for the sport.

The Goalball championship in the Men's category was won by the HHF United team led by Captain Yusuf. The first runner-up was the HHF Super Fighter team, captained by Sanjeev, and the second runner-up was the HHF Devil Slayer team, led by Ajay Lalvani. In the Women's category, the first position was secured by Vaishali Bania, captain of the HHF Shooting Star team. Anjali Tapal, captain of the HHF Diamond Doves team, was the first runner-up.



Blind Lawn Tennis

In partnership with Happy Humans Inclusive Sports Mumbai, the Blind Lawn Tennis was held at Club Tennis De Gaspar Dias in Miramar Panjim, Goa. The tournament featured two categories: B1 and B2, catering to players with varying degrees of visual impairment. In the B1 category, Nibin Methew emerged victorious whereas Shamsudheen P A secured the first runner-up position and Prasad Utekar secured the second runner-up position. In the B2 category, Arbaaz Shaikh clinched the first position. Shaik Umair Ahmed earned the first runner-up position and Mohammad Ibrahim secured the second runner-up position.





Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

The Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, organized in collaboration with the Sitturli Foundation and Don Bosco High School in Panaji, Goa, provided a platform for athletes to showcase their skills, determination, and teamwork. Held on January 12th, the tournament brought together four teams from Goa, Pondicherry, Karnataka, and Delhi. In a display of sheer determination and skill, the Karnataka team emerged as winner. Meanwhile, the Delhi team secured the second position and the Pondicherry team claimed the third position.





Wheelchair Cricket Invitational Tournament

The Purple Wheelchair Cricket Invitational Tournament 2024, held from January 8th to 11th at the SAG Ground, Campal Tiswadi Goa, was a testament to the spirit of sportsmanship and inclusivity. Organized by the Goa Cricket Association (GCA) in partnership with the Differently-Abled Cricket Council of India (DCCI), Wheelchair Cricket India (WCI), and Disability Alliance for Inclusive Goa (DAIG), this event brought together 8 state teams from across the country. Teams from Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Telangana, Karnataka, Mumbai, and Rajasthan showcased their skills and determination in a series of competitive matches. The final match, contested between Karnataka and Delhi, saw Delhi emerge as the champions of the tournament. The event showcased the skills and commitment of cricket players who use wheelchairs, while also emphasizing the importance of creating accessible facilities for sporting events.



Tandem Cycling Relay

The Tandem Cycling Relay as part of the International Purple Fest, Goa - 2024, curated by the Happy Humans Foundation, was a remarkable display of inclusive recreation. The event showcased the coordinated effort of persons with and without disabilities, highlighting the importance of teamwork and inclusivity.

Eight pairs of cyclists, including one pair of women, embarked on a challenging 607-kilometer journey from Mumbai to Goa, completing the distance within 38 hours in a relay fashion. Each tandem cycle featured two seats, with the front seat occupied by a person without disabilities, known as the Captain, who both pedaled and steered the cycle. The rear seat, occupied by a person with a disability, known as the Stoker, provided additional pedaling support, with both riders synchronized through a timing chain for simultaneous pedaling.

Despite facing various challenges such as steep Sahyadri ghats, vehicular traffic, scorching sun during the day, and numbing cold at night, the group never stopped and continued moving forward. This ride exemplified the Happy Humans Foundation's belief that solutions for disability inclusion work best when implemented in the mainstream. It was not only inclusive for persons with disabilities but also for riders without disabilities, who gained a deeper understanding of the capabilities and contributions of individuals with disabilities through this unique experience.








37TH NATIONAL GAMES GOA 2023
MADHYA PRADESH
MAHARASHTRA
ODISHA


MAHARASHTRA
ODISHA


505




794


SEW
689



CLOSING CEREMONY

CLOSING CEREMONY









SIGN LANGUAGE







Awareness about invisible disabilities is important: experts

•National Conference on Invisible Disabilities brings to the fore several issues that tend to get overlooked and highlights the path forward

Goemkarponn desk

Panaji: Stepping out of the shadows and into the spotlight, India's first National Conference on Invisible Disabilities took place as part of the ongoing International Purple Fest-Goa, 2024, tackling the challenges faced by millions silently battling internal battles.

Led by Chronic Pain India and believe in Invisible, the conference, ...tion with Purple Fest and ...ner of Persons

But the road ahead is long. Concerns about health insurance exclusions, lack of UDID grants, and limited specialized medical workforce were addressed, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive policies and increased awareness, ... raised about hindrances

living in the shadows, a call to action for policymakers and healthcare providers, and a reminder that even the hidden battles deserve to be seen and understood.

A number of events have been happening simultaneously across venues. A convention on Spinal Cord Injury at GMC, Bambolim highlighted how treatment is advanced today and addressed various issues related to ...cord injury. There was also ... Leadership Form ...ossible

Spinal cord rehab centre launched at Santa Cruz

Times News Network

Panaji: A permanent spinal cord rehabilitation centre was inaugurated at Rugnashraya at Santa Cruz on Wednesday during the ongoing International Purple Fest.

The rehab centre will offer medical care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychological support and vocational training.

Chief minister Pramod Sawant said anyone can land up with a disability at any time. "Any accidental injury can happen leading to a disability. We want to sup... There is no affor... in the

Purple Sports fuels enthusiasm & passion amongst para athletes on day three

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

The International Purple Fest, Goa saw Purple Sports segment develop into a frenzied, competitive battleground on its third day, producing intriguing contests with a day filled with enthusiastic ...

...men's and women's Unified beach volleyball tournament at Miramar. In the women's category, Goa ...

State Para Athletics c'ship showcases talent across ...

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

...ublic Para Athletics events in government programmes.

Secretary of the Goa Paralympic Association, Sudesh Thakur, thanked Pawaskar for supporting the event after a 12-year break. ...acknowledged the cho... Para Ath...

...gold in long jump. Swa... Naik led the shot put with g... Saish Salkar claimed s... and Maulali Shaikh se... bronze.

In the Visually Im... category for girls aged ... Sakshi Kale secured ... the 100 meters, and S... Dadamani claimed s... discus. Sakshi Kale al... gold in long jump.

For boys aged 9-... Visually Impaired ... Anish Gaunda secure... the 100 meters, while ... Y. Gaude claimed s... 200 meters.

In the 15-19 age ... Visually ...

Goa's State Para Athletics Championship 2023-24 Showca... Exceptional Talent Across Categories

• The recently concluded Goa Athletics Meet saw outstanding performances in different categories, displaying amazing talent and skills in various age groups and sports.

Goemkarponn desk

PANAJI: The Goa Paralympic Association, in collaboration with the State Commission for Persons ...

Guruprasad Pawaskar, emphasised the need for regular Para Athletics events in government programmes.

Secretary of the Goa ...

...long jump. Swapnil Naik led the shot put with gold, Saish Salkar claimed silver, and Maulali Shaikh secured bronze.

In the Visually Impaired category for girls aged 15-19, Sakshi Kale ... gold in the ... Muskan Do... silver in disc... also won ...

...ot put event with a gold, ...owed by Richa Gaude ...th silver and Radhika ...undagi securing bronze. For the girls aged 20 ...nd above in the intellec... ...mpaired catego... ...dhari se...

Satyyed took gold in shot put, and Pratik Naik secured silver. For ...

...by Deep... Tani wi... Deepak... shot pu... In ... Gaud...

Purple Fest Celebrates Thrilling Second Day of Sports Extravaganza

Goemkarponn desk

Panaji: The International Purple Fest, Goa 2024 the much-anticipated annual event, continued its spectacular journey into the world of sports on its second day, captivating audiences with a day filled with exhilarating competitions and unforgettable moments.

The day kicked off with a burst of energy as athletes from various disciplines showcased their prowess, leaving spectators on the edge of their seats. From heart-pounding races to skilful displays of athleticism, Purple Fest transformed into a hub of sporting excellence.

Goa won both their matches in the men's and women's ... unified football tou... kicked off ... GSI...

Mukherjee Stadium at Taleigao Plateau; three players including top seed Jorgen Magnusson of Sweden are in joint lead in the International Chess Championship for visually impaired.

Magnusson, and the Indian duo of Patra Subhendu Kumar (Odisha), Makwana Ashvin (Gurajat) have 2 points each after the end of second round. Uzbekistan's Kimsanboyev Axadxon and Kyrgyz Republic's Arstanbekov Dzhanysh are ... points each.

God's Kau... 1.5 p...

...commence on Wednesday.

In unified badminton at Campal, Goa women have been grouped alongside Kerala and Chandigarh. The hosts men's team is placed along with Bihar and HP. In all six teams are in the fray in the men's and women's competition.

The qualifyin... played on T...

व्हीलचेअर क्रिकेट स्पर्धा सुरु

पर्पल फेस्तमध्ये आयोजन : मुंबई, कर्नाटक पुढच्या फेरीत

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

पणजी : पर्पल फेस्तच्या निमित्ताने राज्यात दिव्यांगासाठी खास विविध खेळांचे आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे. यामध्ये क्रिकेट, बॅडमिंटन, टेबलटेनिस, बुद्धिबळ यासारख्या खेळांचा समावेश आहे. सोमवारी क्रिकेट, बुद्धिबळ व बॅडमिंटन या ...खेळांचे उद्घाटन करण्यात आले.

Empowering Inclusive Education and Assistive Technology

Goemkarponn desk

PANAJI: Purple Fest 2024: On the second day of the International Purple Fest, a National Summit on Inclusive Education was held at the Maquinez Palace, Panaji. The summit commenced with the Founder Director at Brotherhood, New Delhi, Satish Kapoor, welcoming the gathering.

The panel for the discussion included Dr. Sandhya Limaye from ... Martin

benefiting not only children with disabilities but also those from minority groups," she added.

Martin Mathew ...

potential to deeply impact the lives of individuals with disabilities in various ways."

Day two also witnessed a South ... Workshop On ...

young Indian start-ups in the assistive technology space. Encouraged by government initiatives, these startups have developed low-cost, effective, and culturally appropriate devices. ... India at the

inclusive education. He said, "Inclusive education is an integral part of the world, and we should offer equal chances, rights, opportunities, and respect to all."

Dessai also acknowledged the use of assistive technology for ...

vision beyond sight, presented their advan... products and devices ... the audience. Most o... tools cater to the nee... of individuals, teache... and institutions. Too... apps like DAISY (D... Accessible Informa... System), Pipeline A... Mega Voice, and M... ...were amon...

MEDIA CLIPPINGS

Purple Fest Celebrates Thrilling Second Day of Sports Extravaganza

Goemkarponn desk

Panaji: The International Purple Fest, Goa 2024 the much-anticipated annual event, continued its spectacular journey into the world of sports on its second day, captivating audiences with a day filled with exhilarating competitions and unforgettable moments.

The day kicked off with a burst of energy as athletes from various disciplines showcased their prowess, leaving spectators on the edge of their seats. From heart-pounding races to skillful displays of athleticism, Purple Fest transformed into a hub of sporting excellence.

Goa won both their matches in the men's and women's five-a-side unified football tournament that kicked off on Tuesday, at the new GSUDA ground, Campal; in the Purple Sports segment.

Comprising three 'Special' players and two partners in the playing team, Goa men's team blanked Bihar 4-0. Venson Paes scored 2 goals, while Francis Parisapogu and Joel Rodrigues netted 1 goal each. In the women's unified football event, Goa defeated Kerala 3-0. Kajal Jadhav registered 2 goals, while Harsha Devidas scored 1 goal.

Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Desai and NRI Commissioner Adv Narendra Sawaikar graced the inaugural of the unified football event.

Over at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium at Taleigao Plateau; three players including top seed Jorgen Magnusson of Sweden are in joint lead in the International Chess Championship for visually impaired.

Magnusson, and the Indian duo of Patra Subhendu Kumar (Odisha), Makwana Ashvin (Gurajat) have 2 points each after the end of second round. Uzbekistan's Kimsanboyev Axadxon and Kyrgyz Republic's Arstanbekov Dzhanysh are on 1.5 points each.

Goa's Kavlekar Sanjay also has 1.5 points in his kitty. Five more rounds are to be played and the title winner will bag Rs.35 000 on the final day i.e 13th January.

An unique chess event on Tuesday evening saw the blind and visually impaired take on sighted players with the motive behind the exhibition game being to draw attention to the ability of the players.

The National tennis event for blind kicked off at Clube Tennis de Gaspar Dias at Miramar. A total of 19 players are taking part out of which 9 are totally blind while 10 are partially blind. Maharashtra, Kerala, Telangana and Karnataka have sent players for the tennis event.

In Boccia event at Dr KB Hedgewar HS-Cujira, 42 players from 9 states - Gujarat, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh Telangana and Maharashtra; have been classified and action will commence on Wednesday.

In unified badminton at Campal, Goa women have been grouped alongside Kerala and Chandigarh. The hosts men's team is placed along with Bihar and HP. In all six teams are in the fray in the men's and women's competition each.

The qualifying matches were played on Tuesday and the teams were drawn accordingly for the league round that begins on Wednesday.

In wheelchair cricket, Goa suffered a big defeat to Karnataka today. All out for a paltry 20 runs in 7.5 overs, the hosts were hapless as Karnataka raced to 23/0 in one over. In the other matches, Rajasthan beat Telangana by 94 runs, Delhi beat UP by 37 runs, Mumbai beat MP by 7 wickets.

The Purple Sports action is expected to be at its peak on Wednesday with the National Para-Athletics Championship set to take the centrestage at Bambolim Athletics Stadium at 10am. Apart from cricket, football, lawn tennis, boccia and chess; unified beach volleyball is also likely to be a crowd puller at Miramar beach from 6pm.

Purple Fest continues to be a beacon of excitement, uniting communities through the universal language of sports. As the festival progresses, anticipation builds for the upcoming days filled with even more thrilling competitions and memorable experiences.







First PM Divyansha Kendra in State for PwDs opens at GMC

To offer assistive aids to Divyangians free of cost

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

In a significant step towards enhancing accessibility and support for persons with disabilities (PwDs), the State government on Wednesday opened up the Centre's first Pradhan Mantri Divyansha Kendra (PMDK) at the Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMC) that will offer temporary and permanent assistive aids to the Divyangians free of cost.

The centre, a collaborative effort involving the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Goa State Health Department, Goa State Social Welfare Department, and the State Commission of Persons with Disabilities, will also be set up at the South Goa District Hospital.

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that all permanent and temporary equipment such as wheelchairs, prosthetics, hearing aids, smart canes and spectacles etc needed by Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) as well as senior citizens will be given free of cost through the Kendra.

The PMDK, an initiative of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, through ALIMCO, aims to be a one-stop destination for Divyangians in Goa. "This initiative is a crucial step towards creating an inclusive Goa, where Divyangs have easy access to the aids and appliances they need for independent living. The Pradhan Mantri Divyansha Kendra aligns with our commitment to empower every individual in our community," Sawant said.



CM Pramod Sawant during a visit to the Pradhan Mantri Divyansha Kendra (PMDK) at the Goa Medical College and Hospital in Bambolim on Wednesday.

POSITIVE STEP

- The State government opens the first Pradhan Mantri Divyansha Kendra (PMDK) at the Goa Medical College and Hospital
- A collaborative effort involves ALIMCO, Goa State Health Department, Goa State Social Welfare Department, and the State Commission of Persons with Disabilities
- PMDK aims to provide temporary and permanent assistive aids to persons with disabilities (PwDs) free of cost
- Expansion plans include setting up the centre at the South Goa District Hospital
- Wheelchairs, prosthetics, hearing aids, smart canes, spectacles, and other equipment will be provided free of cost to PwDs and senior citizens

व्हीलचेअर क्रिकेट स्पर्धा सुरु

पर्पल फेस्तमध्ये आयोजन : मुंबई, कर्नाटक पुढच्या फेरीत

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

पणजी : पर्पल फेस्तच्या निमित्ताने राज्यात दिव्यांगासाठी खास विविध खेळांचे आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे. यामध्ये क्रिकेट, बॅडमिंटन, टेबलटेनिस, बुद्धिबळ यासारख्या खेळांचा समावेश आहे. सोमवारी क्रिकेट, बुद्धिबळ व बॅडमिंटन या खेळांचे उद्घाटन करण्यात आले. कांपाल येथे क्रिकेट स्पर्धा इनडोअर क्रीडा संकुलात बुद्धिबळ व बॅडमिंटन या स्पर्धांचे आयोजन केले आहे.



क्रिकेट सामन्याचे उद्घाटन करताना बीजमंत्री सुदिन ढवळीकर, मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, नीळकंठ हळर्णकर व इतर मान्यवर.

बीजमंत्री सुदिन ढवळीकर यांच्या हस्ते व्हीलचेअर क्रिकेटचे उद्घाटन करण्यात आले. यावेळी सन्मानिय पाहुणे म्हणून समाज कल्याण मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, पशूसंवर्धन मंत्री नीळकंठ हळर्णकर, वास्कोचे आमदार दाजी साळकर, गोवा क्रिकेट संघटनेचे अध्यक्ष विपुल फडके, डॉ. शेखर साळकर, स्पर्धेचे संयोजक डॉ. केतन भाटीकर, व इतर मान्यवर उपस्थित होते.

सोमवारी दोन क्रिकेट सामने पार पडले. पहिला सामना गोवा विरुद्ध मुंबई यांच्यात झाला. गोव्याने नाणेफेक जिंकून प्रथम फलंदाजीचा निर्णय घेतला. गोव्याने १९.४ षटकात १० गडी गमावून ९१ धावा केला. यावेळी महेशने ४१ धावांची महत्वाची खेळी केली. त्याला स्टॅनीने २४ धावा करत चांगली साथ दिली. तर मुंबईच्या संतोषने आपली चमक दाखवत महत्वाचे ४ गडी बाद केले. सहिलनेदेखील ३ गडी मिळवत महत्वाचे योगदान दिले. १०० धावांचा पाठलाग करताना मुंबईने केवळ ६.३ षटकात ३ गडी गमावून लक्ष्य प्राप्त केले. मुंबईतर्फे संतोषने २२ धावांत नाबाद ६७ धावांची धुवाँधार खेळी केली. गोव्यातर्फे प्रकाश व म्हेश यांनी प्रत्येकी १ गडी बाद केला. संतोष याला आऊटपेलू खेळासाठी सामनावीर घोषित करण्यात आले.

दुसऱ्या सामन्यात कर्नाटकने मध्यप्रदेशचा ११ धावांनी पराभव केला. प्रथम फलंदाजी करताना कर्नाटकने २० षटकात २०८ धावांचे विशाल लक्ष्य ठेवले. कर्नाटकतर्फे हरीषने ५७ चेंडूत १०३ धावांची नाबाद खेळी केली. तर सागरने ८७ धावा करत त्याला सुरेख साथ दिली. मध्यप्रदेशतर्फे कृष्णपाल याने २, तर कबिर सिंग, व अजय यादव यांनी प्रत्येकी १ गडी मिळवले.

प्रत्युत्तरात मध्यप्रदेशने झुंझार खेळी केली. मध्यप्रदेशतर्फे कबिरने ६२, अजयने ५४ व कमलने २२ धावांची खेळी करत कर्नाटकला घाम काढला, पण त्यांना ९१७ धावांपर्यंत मजल मारता आली. या सामन्यात कर्नाटकच्या हरीषला सामनावीर घोषित केले.

Goa's State Para Athletics Championship 2023-24 Showcases Exceptional Talent Across Categories

- The recently concluded Goa Athletics Meet saw outstanding performances in different categories, displaying amazing talent and skills in various age groups and sports.

Goemkarponn desk

PANAJI: The Goa Paralympic Association, in collaboration with the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, organised the State Para Athletics Championship 2023-24 at SAG Athletic Stadium, Bambolim, on December 27, 2023.

Over 115 participants from more than 10 special schools competed in three age categories: 9-14, 15-19, and above 20, showcasing their talents in track and field events such as 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, Long Jump, Shot Put, Javelin, and Discus.

Secretary for the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Taha Haaziq, inaugurated the event alongside officials from Goa Paralympic Association and Goa Athletic Association.

Stressing the significance of such events for children in Goa, senior para player Mangesh Kutikar expressed gratitude to the organisers.

Despite the upcoming International Purple Festival in January 2024, the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, Guruprasad Pawaskar, emphasised the need for regular Para Athletics events in government programmes.

Secretary of the Goa Paralympic Association, Sudesh Thakur, thanked Pawaskar for supporting the event after a 12-year break. He acknowledged the challenges in hosting Para Athletics events and extended appreciation to teachers, SAG officials, volunteers, and Anu Modak for their valuable contributions to the championship's success.

The championship saw outstanding performances across different categories. In the Intellectual Impaired category, girls aged 9-14, Daphne Fernandes secured gold in the 100 and 200 meters, while Aaeesha Gawde claimed silver in the 100 meters. Moving to the 15-19 age group, Ashwaria Das received gold in the 100 and 200 meters, with Richa Gaude securing silver and Anamika Gaonkar taking bronze in the 100 meters. Aparna Valikar clinched gold in the 400m, while Gauri T. Gaude dominated the 800 meters with a gold. Anamika Gaonkar led the



shot put event with a gold, followed by Richa Gaude with silver and Radhika Gundagi securing bronze.

For the girls aged 20 and above in the Intellectual Impaired category, Shivani Chari secured gold in the 100 meters, with Roshni Ben earning silver, and Naz A. Nalikun taking bronze. Naz A. Nalikun also clinched gold in long jump, while Shivani Chari won gold in shot put. Arti Satarkar claimed silver, and Deepisha Shelapker secured bronze in the shot put event.

In the boys' category aged 9-14 for the Intellectual Impaired, Pratik Naik secured gold in the 100 meters, followed by Yograj Aroskar with silver and Suharsh D. Naik with bronze. Suharsh D. Naik clinched gold in the 200 meters, while Mujamil Sayyad took gold in shot put, and Pratik Naik secured silver.

For boys aged 15-19 in the Intellectual Impaired category, Omkar Naik won gold in the 100 meters, Vishal Gosavi secured silver, and Ali Abbas earned bronze. Asheel Malanur claimed gold in both the 200 and 400 meters, while Omkar Bhingi secured gold in shot put, followed by Ibrahim Hurkadli with silver and Geetesh Naik with bronze.

In the 20 plus boys' category for the Intellectual Impaired, Sanjay Naik secured gold in the 100 meters, followed by Swapnil Naik with silver and Dhiraj Kumar Bind with bronze. Dhiraj Kumar Bind claimed gold in the 200 meters, while Samir Baig won gold in the 400 meters. Sanjay Naik also secured gold in long jump. Swapnil Naik led the shot put with gold, Saish Salkar claimed silver, and Maulali Shaikh secured bronze.

In the Visually Impaired category for girls aged 15-19, Sakshi Kale secured gold in the 100 meters, and Muskan Dodamani claimed silver in discus. Sakshi Kale also won gold in long jump.

For boys aged 9-14 in the Visually Impaired category, Anish Gauda secured gold in the 100 meters, while Yatharth Y. Gaude claimed gold in the 200 meters.

In the 15-19 age group for boys in the Visually Impaired category, Varad Kannur won gold in the 100 meters, followed by Harsh H. Dhargalkar with silver and Ali Abbas with bronze. Varad Kannur also clinched gold in shot put.

In the 20 plus age group for boys in the Visually Impaired category, Purjut Jha secured gold in the 100 meters, Saish Salkar claimed silver, and Tukaram S. Gaonkar secured bronze. Tukaram S. Gaonkar won gold in javelin, while Akshay T. Salelkar secured silver. Purjut Jha also claimed gold in long jump, followed by Deeparaj Deepak Tari with silver. Deeparaj Deepak Tari won gold in shot put.

In the Cerebral Palsy category for boys aged 15-19, Malik Rehan Mulla secured gold in both the 100 and 200 meters. In the 20 plus age group for boys in the Cerebral Palsy category, Jovito Cardozo claimed gold in the 100 meters and Brian Vaz secured silver. Jovito Cardozo also secured gold in shot put.

For the Amputees category, boys aged 9-14 saw Nalik Ramesh Naik claiming gold in the 100 meters and long jump. In the 20 plus age group for boys in the Amputees category, Ritesh Narayan Vainganikar secured gold in the 100 meters. Madan M. Manerkar won gold in the 400 meters, while Gopal P. Naik claimed gold in discus and javelin. Prakash Kundaikar secured gold in shot put.

In the Wheelchair category for boys aged 20 plus, Mahesh Pagadala won gold in discus and shotput. Gauresh Marathe claimed gold in javelin, while Moses Rodrigues secured silver.

Spinal cord rehab centre launched at Santa Cruz

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Panaji: A permanent spinal cord rehabilitation centre was inaugurated at Rugnashraya at Santa Cruz on Wednesday during the ongoing International Purple Fest.

The rehab centre will offer medical care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychological support and vocational training.

Chief minister Pramod Sawant said anyone can land up with a disability at any time. "Any accidental injury can happen leading to a disability. We want to support them. There is no affordable facility available in the state," he said.

The centre is a collaborative effort between the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, Rygnashraya and the state commission for persons with disabilities. Commissioner for persons with disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar said the permanent spinal rehab centre is necessary as people who suffer spinal injuries usually go for treatment outside the state for a few months and when they return there's no opportunity for follow up treatment. The centre has a facility where parents or family members can also stay with the person who is recovering from spinal injuries.

A convention for spinal cord injury took place at the GMC on Wednesday.

GMC dean Dr S Bandekar said there are many cases of spinal injuries in Goa due to the profession of toddy tapping, where people tend to fall from heights while climbing trees, besides the number of vehicular accidents.

Govt to host matrimonial meet for PwDs at Purple Fest next year

PANAJI: Minister for Social Welfare Subhash Phal Dessai on Thursday announced the hosting of All India 12th Matrimony Meet on January 10, 2024 as part of the International Purple Fes - Goa 2024 with an aim to unite people with various disabilities seeking life partners. At a press conference held in Porvorim, th minister underscored the importance of matrimonial gatherings for persons with disabilities (PwDs) while emphasizing that thes events offer a platform to connect similar-minded persons who comprehend their experiences and challenges.

"Diverse attendance at the event will broaden the scope of potential connections and create an extensive network for PwDs," he added. The event will be jointly held by the Directorate of Social Welfare, Office of the State Commissioner for Persons wit Disabilities, and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with Voice Vision and Basude Bubna Memorial Trust.



International Purple Fest (Goa) was inaugurated by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant along with Union Minister Ramdas Athavale, MP Sadanand Tanavade, Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Dessai, Sports Minister Govind Gaude and other dignitaries at Dayanand Bandodkar ground on Monday. Lensman **Narayan Pissurlenkar** takes a closer look at the cultural events that unfolded after the inauguration.

Purple Fest sends out clear message of inclusivity: CM

SAYS DIFFERENTLY ABLED PERSONS ARE 'SPECIAL' FOR COUNTRY

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Monday said that the International Purple Fest (Goa) has been sending a message of inclusiveness on lines with the slogan of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the inaugural function of the six-day-long event, he further said that PM Modi personally inquired about the festival hours before it was inaugurated.

"The land of Goa has become canvass of Purple, not only in colour but also in the spirit. The differently abled persons are special not only for PM Narendra Modi but also for the entire country. The first edition of the Fest held last year had special mention in PM's Man Ki Baat program," Sawant added. Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Desai also read out message by the PM for the participants.

The CM went on to add that the differently abled are not "disabled"but "special" for the country while emphasizing furthering the slogans of PM of Skill India, Fit India and Inclusive India.

Union Minister Ramdas Athavale in his short speech said that this festival "celebrates the spirit of inclusiveness." "This is a stage where everyone is important," he said pointing out that Narendra Modi-led government has given special thrust on the differently abled persons by creating separate ministry in the centre for the purpose. Dr Karen Darke, a paralympian and ambassador of US-based Voice of Specially Abled People (VOSAP), said that International Purple Fest is a "unique festival" which indicates India's inclusive celebration dedicated to honouring and celebrating individuals with disabilities.

"It brings together us to learn, network and celebrate for the next six days," she said.

Darke said that VOSAP is US based advocacy organization with the goal to achieve inclusiveness everywhere. "In the year 2047, disability economy sector would be thriving at one trillion dollars," she said. State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar also addressed the gathering.



22 ambassadors redefining inclusivity at Purple Fest

In a celebration of diversity and empowerment, International Purple Fest, Goa-2024 brings forth the inspiring narratives of 22 ambassadors, each a beacon of resilience and advocacy in their unique journeys

NT NETWORK

Prasad Joshi: Deaf individual, Lower Division Clerk at Goa University, Founder of Goa Association of the Deaf, Vice President of All India Deaf Arts & Culture Society.

K Vaishali: Person with Dyslexia, author, public speaker, queer rights and disability rights activist, works at a tech company, hosts "Queerious Connections" podcast.

Anubha Singhal: Person with Muscular Dystrophy, architect, founder of Ayushkama Foundation, director at "Enable Me Access" advocate for Universal Design principles.

Dr. Shanthipriya Sivan: Person with Parkinson's Disease, Senior General Ophthalmologist, Founder and CEO of SAAR Foundation, recipient of various awards.

Prashant Naik: Person with Low Vision, Senior Manager at Union Bank of India, recognized for accessible ATMs and braille-enabled debit cards.

Puneet Singh Singhal: Person with Speech and Language Disability, founder of Sunarc, Chief Discovery Officer for Billion Strong, recognized in leadership.



Swasti Mehta: Person with Intellectual Disability, entrepreneur, founder of Padma Panch, participant in mountaineering workshop for individuals with Down syndrome.

Dr. Anubha Mahajan: Person with Chronic Neurological Conditions, dentist, founder of Chronic Pain India, SDG Ambassador, advocate for gender equality.

Pooja Gupta: Person with Thalassemia, IT professional, advocate for Thalassemia awareness, recipient of National Award.

Shrutikia Singhi: Person with Multiple Disabilities, Senior Specialist at Sense International India, advocate for deafblindness, pediatric physiotherapist.

Sonali Mukherjee: Acid Attack Survivor, government employee, women's empowerment advocate, recipient of India Positive Award. She participated in "Kaun Banega Crorepati" (KBC) in the "Divya Mauka" segment.

Ekta Biyan: Person with Spinal Cord Injury, para athlete, gold medalist in club throw at Asian Para Games, National Award winner.

Chaitanya Mukund: Person with Cerebral Palsy, author, supermodel, creator of India's first superhero with a physical disability in 2019.

Smitha Sadashivan: Person with Multiple Sclerosis, accessibility advocate, Advisor on Inclusive Health Policy, State Award winner.

Vishant Nagorkar: Person with Locomotor Disability, Research Assistant, disability rights advocate, active in sports and event organization.

Nomesh Verma: Person with Sickle Cell Disease, electrician, Founder of Sickle Cell Foundation, motivational speaker.

Disha Pandya: Person with Dwarfism, artist, graphic designer, national-level badminton player, founder of 'Little People of India.'

Saurabh Prasad: Person with Blindness, Microsoft software engineer, Israel Abidi fellow, advocate for accessibility in STEM.

Aditi Gangrade: Autistic person, film director, writer, co-founder of Much Much Media, advocate for mental health and neurodiversity.

Priya Lal: Leprosy Cured Person, audit professional, advocate for leprosy awareness, determined to eliminate stigma.

Radhesh Varty: Person with Hemophilia, entrepreneur, founder of Padma Painters, Financial Advisor for Hemophilia Society Panaji Chapter.

Resluna Vallappan: Person with Mental Illness, co-founder of The Red Door, artist, writer, activist, central figure in the documentary 'A Drop of Sunshine.'

Empowering Inclusive Education and Assistive Technology

Goemkarponn desk

PANAJI: Purple Fest 2024: On the second day of the International Purple Fest, a National Summit on Inclusive Education was held at the Maquinez Palace, Panaji. The summit commenced with the Founder Director at Brotherhood, New Delhi, Satish Kapoor, welcoming the gathering.

The panel for the discussion included Dr. Sandhya Limaye from TISS, Mumbai; Martin Matthew, representing the Ali Yavar Jung National Institute Of Speech And Hearing Disabilities; Taha Haaziq, Secretary of the Office of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities and Avalino De Sa, president of the Disability Rights Association of Goa.

Dr. Sandhya Limaye highlighted the inclusive education conference that has been ongoing for over 10 years. During the session, which hosted over 120 participants, she emphasised the importance of higher education for disabled individuals. "One day, we will unite to establish an inclusive environment,







benefiting not only children with disabilities but also those from minority groups," she added.

Martin Mathew discussed the relevance of the uses and gratification theory, which explores the effects of media on people. He said, "We should place information into a digital space as it is the age of AI supremacy."

Avelino De Sa agreed with Mathew and stated that despite the challenges in implementing inclusive education in schools and colleges, it remains crucial to increase and effectively execute government policies for raising awareness.

Taha Haaziq spoke about the importance of AI. He said, "AI is the right way to go. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to deeply impact the lives of individuals with disabilities in various ways."

Day two also witnessed a South Asia Workshop On Technology and Inclusive Education. Chaired by Dr. Brendra Pokharel, Vice President of ICEVI West Asia, the workshop featured informative presentations by Dr. Homiyar, Head Bookatore South Asia & Africa, and Hunny Bhagchandani from Startup Torchit. They demonstrated how technology can revolutionise education, particularly in science, mathematics, and other advanced subjects, making it more accessible and engaging for everyone.

A key takeaway was the work being done by young Indian start-ups in the assistive technology space. Encouraged by government initiatives, these startups have developed low-cost, effective, and culturally appropriate devices, positioning India at the forefront globally.

During the event, one of the speakers expressed gratitude to ICEVI for inviting these innovators and setting up stalls at the Purple Fest. "This combination of presentations and hands-on experience allows everyone to learn about and experience these life-changing devices firsthand."

Also present was Minister of Social Welfare of Goa Subhash Phal Desai, who spoke about the importance of providing inclusive education. He said, "Inclusive education is an integral part of the world, and we should offer equal chances, rights, opportunities, and respect to all."

Dessai also acknowledged the use of assistive technology for disabled people and the success of the Purple Fest. "Over 30 conferences have been held across various platforms, discussing problems, rights violations, and policy implementations. "We cannot measure the achievements of this fest on a scale, and I am truly thankful and grateful for the changes in perception and increased awareness," he added.

Torchit, an organisation working towards empowering vision beyond sight, presented their advanced products and devices to the audience. Most of their tools cater to the needs of individuals, teachers, and institutions. Tools and apps like DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System), Pipeline App, Mega Voice, and Music Braille were among those listed.

Organised by ICVE Global, the workshop showcased India's leadership in developing affordable and effective assistive devices for people with disabilities. The diverse range of assistive technologies on display enlightened workshop attendees, each device showcasing the potential to transform the lives of people with disabilities.

Awareness about invisible disabilities is important: experts

•National Conference on Invisible Disabilities brings to the fore several issues that tend to get overlooked and highlights the path forward

Goemkarponn desk

Panaji: Stepping out of the shadows and into the spotlight, India's first National Conference on Invisible Disabilities took place as part of the ongoing International Purple Fest-Goa, 2024, tackling the challenges faced by millions silently battling internal battles.

Led by Chronic Pain India and Believe in Invisible, the conference, in collaboration with Purple Fest and the State Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities, Goa, sought to bring awareness and solutions to the often-overlooked realm of invisible disabilities.

"These are disabilities you can't see with your naked eyes," explains Dr. Anubha Mahajan, founder of Chronic Pain India, herself an invisible disability warrior. "People with chronic pains, autoimmune disorders, neurological conditions – their struggles are real, their limitations debilitating, yet they often lack access to essential healthcare and social support."

The conference delved into the complex world of these hidden battles, highlighting the need for clearer definitions, specialized doctors, and improved healthcare options. The government's recent focus on invisible disabilities through the G20 and this conference itself were seen as positive steps towards a brighter future.



But the road ahead is long. Concerns about health insurance exclusions, lack of UDID grants, and limited specialized medical workforce were addressed, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive policies and increased awareness, were points raised about hindrances in moving forward.

The conference focused not only on numbers and policy, but also on storytelling. The audience, a diverse group of people with invisible disabilities and concerned professionals, shared their stories, providing insight into the unseen battles and everyday achievements. The audience also included 40 BA.Ed students from Vidya Prabodhini College, Porvorim.

From chronic fatigue to debilitating pain, from cognitive impairments to social isolation, the stories resonated, challenging stereotypes and reminding us that disabilities come in many forms.

The National Conference on Invisible Disabilities marks a significant step forward. It's a beacon of hope for the millions living in the shadows, a call to action for policymakers and healthcare providers, and a reminder that even the hidden battles deserve to be seen and understood.

A number of events have been happening simultaneously across venues. A convention on Spinal Cord Injury at GMC, Bambolim highlighted how treatment is advanced today and addressed various issues related to a spinal cord injury. There was also a NHRDN Thought Leadership Form at ESG. A convention on Accessible Publishing by DFI which aimed at plugging all gaps that exist in production, distribution, and reading publications in Braille, Digital talking book, accessible e-text.

Laying emphasis on the Disability Rights, there was an advocate conference held at the High Court in which several senior lawyers of the state participated.

A bird trail in Carambolim, a cruise ride on Mandovi River and Drum Circle at Kala Academy were some activities under Purple Fun organised to bring a smile and allow delegates to unwind in Goa.

Purple Think Tank Sparks Dialogue on Social Inclusion at Festival

Goemkarponn Desk

PANAJI: As part of the International Purple Fest, the Purple Think Tank section hosted a series of panel discussions, curated and organised by the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP).

The second-to-last day of the festival featured a panel discussion on Social Inclusion, with panelists including Amar Jain, co-founder of Mission Accessibility; Arman Ali, executive director of NCPEDP; Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities; Daniel Van Sant, Director of Disability Policy at the



Harkin Institute; Akhil Paul, Director of Sense International India; Javed Abidi, a member of NCPEDP; and Principal Scientist and Honorary Faculty at Anna University.

A member of NCPEDP, Akshay Jain, emphasised the importance of disaggregated data for informed decision-making and policymaking for persons with disabilities. He said, "Disaggregated data is crucial for informed decision-making and policymaking for persons with disabilities. It empowers us to develop appropriate schemes and policies. Individuals also play a role by identifying themselves with disabilities."

He added that in India, despite being the most populous country, the reported disability rate of 2.2% seems incongruent with global estimates, prompting a critical panel discussion on the accuracy of the data.

A total of nine panel discussions were held at the fest, covering critical subjects such as assistive technology, health insurance, education and employment for persons with disabilities, political inclusion of persons with disabilities, desegregated data, sensors and social inclusion, and promoting new leadership.

State Para Athletics c'ship showcases talent across categories

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

The Goa Paralympic Association, in collaboration with the State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, organised the State Para Athletics Championship 2023-24 at SAG Athletic Stadium, Bambolim, recently.

Over 115 participants from more than 10 special schools competed in three age categories: 9-14, 15-19, and above 20, showcasing their talents in track and field events such as 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, long jump, shot put, javelin, and discus.

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The championship saw outstanding performances across different categories. In the Intellectual Impaired category, girls aged 9-14, Euphine Fernandes secured gold in the 100 and 200 meters, while Aneesha Gawde claimed silver in the 100 meters. Moving to the 15-19 age group, Ashwaria Das received gold in the 100 and 200 meters, with Richa Gawde securing silver and Anamika Gaonkar taking bronze in the 100 meters. Aparna Vallikar clinched gold in the 400m, while Gauri T. Gawde dominated the 800 meters with a gold. Anamika Gaonkar led the shot put event with a gold, followed by Richa Gawde with silver and Radhika Gundagi securing bronze.



For the girls aged 20 and above in the Intellectual Impaired category, Shivani Chari secured gold in the 100 meters, with Roshni Ben earning silver, and Naz A. Nalikkun taking bronze. Naz A. Nalikkun also clinched gold in long jump, while Shivani Chari won gold in shot put. Arti Sawrkar claimed silver, and Deepisha Shelapkar secured bronze in the shot put event.

In the boys' category aged 9-14 for the Intellectual Impaired, Pratik Naik secured gold in the 100 meters, followed by Yograj Anokar with silver and Suharsh D. Naik with bronze. Suharsh D. Naik clinched gold in the 200 meters, while Mujamil Sayyed took gold in shot put, and Pratik Naik secured silver.

For boys aged 15-19 in the Intellectual Impaired category, Omkar Naik won gold in the 100 meters, Vishal Gonrd secured silver, and Ali Abbas earned bronze. Ashref Mallanur claimed gold in both the 200 and 400 meters, while Omkar Bhingi secured gold in shot put, followed by Ibrahim Hunkadli with silver and Geetesh Naik with bronze.

In the 20 plus boys' category for the Intellectual Impaired, Sanjay Naik secured gold in the 100 meters, followed by Swapnil Naik with silver and Dhiraj Kumar Bind with bronze. Dhiraj Kumar Bind claimed gold in the 200 meters, while Samir Baig won gold in the 400 meters. Sanjay Naik also secured gold in long jump. Swapnil Naik led the shot put with gold, Satish Salkar claimed silver, and Maulali Shaikh secured bronze.

In the Visually Impaired category for girls aged 15-19, Sakshi Kale secured gold in the 100 meters, and Muskan Dodamani claimed silver in discus. Sakshi Kale also won gold in long jump.

For boys aged 9-14 in the Visually Impaired category, Anish Gauns secured gold in the 100 meters, while Yatharth Y. Gaude claimed gold in the 200 meters.

In the 15-19 age group for boys in the Visually Impaired category, Vinod Kannur won gold in the 100 meters, followed by Harsh H. Dhargalkar with silver and Ali Abbas with bronze. Vinod Kannur also clinched gold in shot put.

In the 20 plus age group for boys in the Visually Impaired category, Purjut Jha secured gold in the 100 meters, Satish Salkar claimed silver, and Tukaram S. Gaonkar secured bronze. Tukaram S. Gaonkar won gold in javelin, while Akshay T. Salelkar secured silver. Purjut Jha also claimed gold in long jump, followed by Deepsagi Deepak Tari with silver. Deepsagi Deepak Tari won gold in shot put.

In the Cerebral Palsy category for boys aged 15-19, Malik Rehan Mulla secured gold in both the 100 and 200 meters. In the 20 plus age group for boys in the Cerebral Palsy category, Jovito Cardozo claimed gold in the 100 meters and Brian Vaz secured silver. Jovito Cardozo also secured gold in shot put.

For the Amputees category, boys aged 9-14 saw Naitik Ramesh Naik claiming gold in the 100 meters and long jump. In the 20 plus age group for boys in the Amputees category, Ritesh Narayan Vaingankar secured gold in the 100 meters. Madan M. Mamerkar won gold in the 400 meters, while Gopal P. Naik claimed gold in discus and javelin. Prakash Kundaikar secured gold in shot put.

In the Wheelchair category for boys aged 20 plus, Mahesh Pagadala won gold in discus and shotput. Ganesh Mahathe claimed gold in javelin, while Moises Rodrigues secured silver.

In the Dwarf category for boys aged 15-19, Ashvek Karbotkar secured gold in both the 100 meters and javelin.

Purple Sports fuels enthusiasm & passion amongst para athletes on day three

THE GOAN | NETWORK

PANAJI

The International Purple Fest, Goa saw Purple Sports segment develop into a frenzied, competitive battleground on its third day, producing intriguing contests with a day filled with enthusiastic competitions and passionate participation from athletes across all domains of disabilities.

The National lawn tennis tournament for the visually-impaired concluded at Chibe Tennis de Gaspar Dias on Wednesday.

Nihin Matthew emerged the champion in the B1 category (fully blind), while Shamsuddin PA was the runner-up. In the B2 (partially blind) category, Arhaaz Patel from Maharashtra walked away with the top honours. Umair Shaikh from Telangana finished runner-up.



A football event was held for the blind and visually impaired persons at Don Bosco High School ground, on Wednesday.

The day-long Boccia event saw great enthusiasm and rich participation from men and women at Dr KB Hedgewar HS Cuilra. The competition saw three categories depending on the disabilities; with the mix-gender contest also producing close battle. Sarita Dwivedi, an artist from Uttar Pradesh, dabbled into sports for the first time and did it very well. The Kanpur-resident topped the BC2 category. Kamal Vyas won the BC3 category event while Selvam M was the champion in BC4 competition. Goa's Moises Rodrigues was the runner-up in BC4 event.

In wheelchair cricket at SAG ground, Cumpal; Karnataka and Delhi sealed the final spots. The final will be played on Thursday at 9 a.m.

For the hosts Goa, who were making their debut in wheelchair cricket, the event provided a lot of exposure and encouragement. The hosts put up a better fight as compared to their disastrous outing on Tuesday.

Taking on Madhya Pradesh, Goa won the toss and batted first. Riding on a fantastic knock of 81 from Mahesh Padalkar, Goa posted 114/4 in the allotted 20 overs. MP, however, chased down the target in 12 overs with eight wickets in hand.

Elsewhere, Karnataka beat Mumbai by 58 runs; UP beat Rajasthan by 7 wickets; Delhi beat Telangana by 6 wickets.

Goa put up a winning display on the opening day of its men's and women's Unified beach volleyball tournament at Miramar. In the women's category, Goa beat Kerala 2-1 (15-6, 14 -16, 15 -11). Goa men came from a set down to overcome a fighting Puducherry 2-1 (11-25, 25 - 20, 25-12).

The day also saw National Para-Athletics Championship 2023, being declared open in the presence of Sports Minister Govind Gaude, Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Dusai and other dignitaries, at Bambolim Athletics Stadium. The National championship, which is a qualifying competition for the upcoming Paris Olympics and World Championship, will see around 1500 para-athletes from all over India compete across around 180 events based on their disabilities classification. The National Para-Athletics Championship will conclude on January 13.

Goemkarponn

International Purple Fest-Goa 2024: A Global Celebration of Inclusion and Awareness

•The event is expected to attract over 8,000 attendees from across the globe

Goemkarponn desk

Panaji: Goa is set to host the International Purple Fest 2024, welcoming over 8,000 participants from India and various countries, marking the event's international debut. Commencing next week, the festival aims to introduce initiatives such as a permanent spinal cord rehab center and an ALIMCO unit at GMC, Bambolim.

State commissioner for persons with disabilities (PwDs) Guruprasad Pawaskar said, "We are bridging the gap for individuals with spinal cord injuries who previously had to seek treatment outside the state, only to find no follow-up care upon their return. The permanent ALIMCO unit at GMC will ensure immediate access to artificial limbs, eliminating waiting periods after assessment."

He also highlighted the efforts made to raise awareness across Goa. He said, "We have conducted huge awareness drives across Goa. For example, we have conducted orientation programmes for 1,200 drivers and conductors of the KTC because PwDs use these buses."

While acknowledging the festival's current impact, Pawaskar said, "Change cannot be expected within a few months. Efforts like screening movies for students from regular schools aim to alter perspectives. We have trained approximately 800 volunteers for this festival. Also, there are full-day training program facilitated by PwDs themselves, who better understand their requirements."

Throughout the festival, assessment camps for disabilities and the distribution of free aids will be available, aiming to enhance inclusivity. Also, 30 wheelchair-accessible e-rickshaws will be launched, building upon the success of previous initiatives.

"The accessible rickshaws have been life-changing, offering independence to many," said Pawaskar, highlighting the positive impact of these initiatives.

With 30 conferences covering diverse topics and interactive zones offering first-hand experiences of various disabilities, the fest aims to sensitise people toward disabilities.

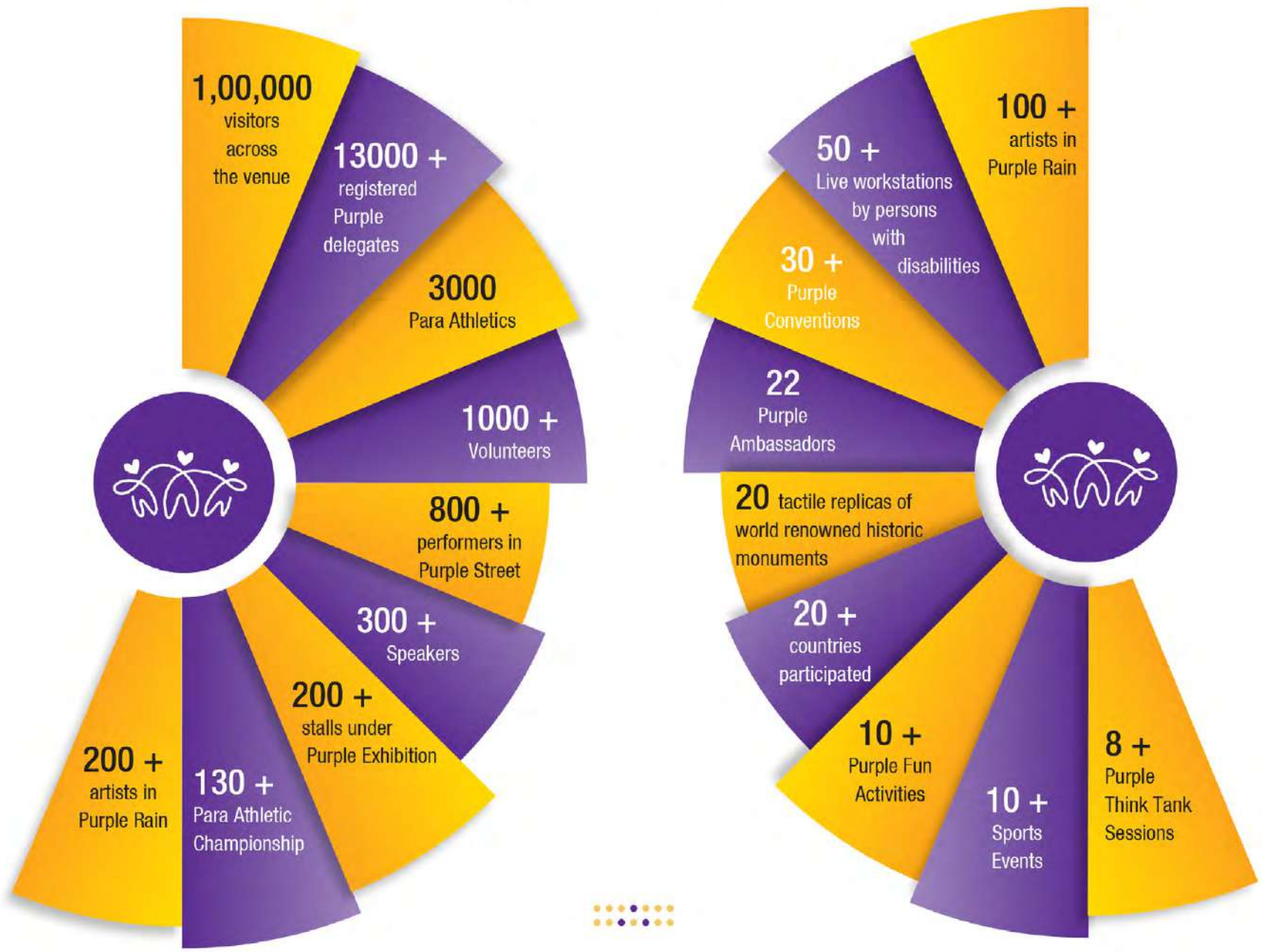
Organised by the state commissioner's office and the department of Social welfare, the festival is a collaborative effort involving nine NGOs in Goa, and 200 organisers from different parts of the country.

Pawaskar said, "Purple Fest is a collective endeavour, with various NGOs in Goa such as SETHU, SANGATH, National Association of Blind (NAB Goa), Goa Special Schools' Association (GSSA), Caritas, Goa Deaf Association (GDF), Disability Rights Association of Goa (DRAG), Disability Alliance for Inclusive Goa (DAIG), and Hemophilia Society Goa (HSG) actively involved in creating awareness about individuals with disabilities and advocating for their rights."

The agenda for the festival that will be held from January 9- 13 has been planned collaboratively by NGOs, with the Goa government providing infrastructure and financial support to further this inclusive concept. Pawaskar stressed the need for continuous efforts to ensure a more accommodating environment for individuals with disabilities.

INTERNATIONAL
PURPLE FEST
GOA-2024

OVERVIEW



INTERNATIONAL
PURPLE FEST
GOA-2024

ORGANISERS

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa

KEY PARTNERS

INCLUSION PARTNERS

MISSION ACCESSIBILITY

VENUE PARTNERS

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa

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