INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST

GOA-2025

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY





INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST™
GOA-2025

OVERVIEW

1,00,000+
Visitors across the venue

500+
Purple Street Artists

30+
Live work stations

12
Countries

1,000+
Para Athletes

250+
Exhibition Stalls

21
Purple Ambassadors

15,000+
Registered Delegates

300+
Speakers

25
Purple Conferences

800+
Volunteers

230+
Purple Rain Artists

08
Purple Fun Activities

Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities - Goa

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

UNITED NATIONS INDIA

INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST™

GOA-2025



INDEX

1.	Messages	07
2.	Introduction	13
3.	Purple Highlights	18
4.	Purple Ambassadors	25
5.	Inauguration	37
6.	Purple Think Tank	39
7.	Purple Conference	49
8.	Purple Experience Zone	61
9.	Purple Spectrum	67
10.	Purple Street	73
11.	Purple Kalieodoscope	78
12.	Purple Sports	82
13.	Purple Rain	88
14.	Purple Fun	111
15.	Purple Exhibition	120
15.	Closing Ceremony	124
17.	Media Clippings	126





Dr. Pramod Sawant

Hon'ble Chief Minister Goa

The International Purple Fest Goa 2025, held from 9th to 12th October 2025, stands as a meaningful milestone in Goa's journey towards inclusion. It brought together diverse voices, ideas, and experiences, reinforcing the collective commitment to empowerment, dignity and equal participation for persons with disabilities.

The Government of Goa continues to move steadily towards the vision of Inclusive Goa, where accessibility and inclusion are integral to governance and development. Through sustained efforts in accessible infrastructure, inclusive education, employment opportunities, assistive technologies, and social sensitisation, Goa is creating an enabling environment that supports independence and equal opportunity for all.

I commend the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities for their dedicated efforts in making the Purple Fest a strong platform for collaboration, innovation, and positive change.



Dr. Virendra Kumar

Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India

An inclusive society is built when policies translate into lived realities for every citizen. Platforms such as the International Purple Fest Goa 2025 demonstrate how dialogue, innovation and partnership can accelerate progress towards equal opportunity and dignity for persons with disabilities.

The Government of India, through the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, continues to strengthen policies and programmes that promote accessibility, inclusive education, skill development, employment, and the use of assistive technologies, in alignment with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. These efforts are central to achieving equitable development and social justice.

The Government of Goa, Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities deserve appreciation for their leadership in organising the International Purple Fest. The Fest serves as an important platform for collaboration, innovation, and shared learning, contributing meaningfully to the vision of a more inclusive India.

MESSAGE



Shri. Subhash Phal Dessai

Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of
Persons with Disabilities

Accessibility is the foundation of inclusion, and inclusive development begins when systems are designed to be usable by all. Goa's journey towards empowerment of persons with disabilities is rooted in the principle that equal access to public spaces, services, information, and opportunities is a fundamental right, not a concession.

The Government of Goa is actively working to integrate accessibility standards across infrastructure, transport, digital platforms, government programmes, and public events. Alongside physical accessibility, emphasis is being placed on assistive technologies, reasonable accommodation, and attitudinal change to ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in education, employment, culture, and community life.

The International Purple Fest Goa 2025 has reinforced the importance of collaboration in advancing this agenda. I appreciate the efforts of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and all stakeholders for strengthening Goa's resolve to build an inclusive, barrier-free, and empowering ecosystem for persons with disabilities.



Shri. Rajesh Agarwal IAS

Secretary, Department for Empowerment of
Persons with Disabilities, Government of India

The International Purple Fest Goa 2025, held from 9th to 12th October 2025, has emerged as a significant platform advancing the national dialogue on inclusion, accessibility, and empowerment of persons with disabilities. The Fest reflected a shared commitment to creating inclusive systems through collaboration among governments, civil society, industry, and persons with disabilities.

The Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities continues to work towards strengthening policy frameworks, improving accessibility, expanding the reach of assistive technologies, and promoting inclusive education and employment in alignment with the objectives of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Such initiatives are vital in ensuring equal opportunity and full participation for persons with disabilities across all sectors.

The efforts of the Government of Goa and the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in hosting the International Purple Fest deserve special appreciation. The Fest serves as a model for cooperative federalism and collective action in building a more inclusive and equitable India.

MESSAGE



Dr. V Candavelou IAS

Chief Secretary Goa

In recent years, Goa has taken steady steps to align governance with the principles of accessibility, equity, and inclusion. The International Purple Fest Goa 2025, held from 9th to 12th October 2025, reflected this evolving commitment by bringing attention to inclusive practices across sectors.

The Government of Goa is committed to institutionalising the vision of Inclusive Goa through convergence among departments, capacity building of officials, adoption of universal design principles, and integration of accessibility standards in government programmes and services. These efforts aim to ensure that inclusion is not an exception, but a norm in public administration.

The Purple Fest has strengthened dialogue, partnerships, and shared accountability among stakeholders. I appreciate the sustained efforts of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and all collaborators in advancing a governance model that is equitable, inclusive, and future-ready.



Shri. Guruprasad R. Pawaskar

Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons
with Disabilities, Government of Goa

The International Purple Fest Goa was envisioned as a vibrant platform to celebrate abilities, raise awareness, and foster collaboration for the empowerment of persons with disabilities. Its purpose has always been to create a space where dialogue, innovation, and shared learning can translate into concrete action, ensuring that inclusion moves beyond words to lived reality.

Over the years, the Purple Fest has grown into a landmark initiative, bringing together government, civil society, corporates, experts, and persons with disabilities themselves. The insights, ideas, and partnerships generated through the Fest have guided policy, strengthened programmes, and inspired innovative solutions across the State. Purple Fest 2025 continues this journey, reinforcing Goa's commitment to accessibility, equality, and inclusive development.

As the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, I am proud to see the Purple Fest evolving into a national and international platform that not only showcases achievements but also accelerates the collective mission of building an Inclusive Goa—where every citizen, regardless of ability, can participate fully and equally in society.

MESSAGE



Shri. Prasanna Acharya IAS

Secretary, Empowerment for Persons
with Disabilities, Government of Goa

The Purple Fest has emerged as a transformative platform in Goa's journey towards inclusion, shaping conversations, strengthening partnerships, and reinforcing the importance of a rights-based approach to disability empowerment. Through Purple Fest 2023 and 2024, the focus on accessibility, participation, and systemic change gained renewed momentum across government and society.

One of the most significant outcomes of this collective vision was the establishment of the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in 2024. The creation of this dedicated department marks a major institutional milestone, enabling focused policy formulation, coordinated implementation, and sustained monitoring of disability-inclusive initiatives across the State.

The Department is committed to advancing accessibility, inclusive education, employment, assistive technologies, and inter-departmental convergence. This step represents Goa's long-term commitment to embedding inclusion into governance and ensuring that empowerment of persons with disabilities remains central to the State's development agenda.



Dr. S. Govindraj

Commissioner Persons with Disabilities,
Government of India

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warm greetings on the publication of the Coffee Table Book commemorating International Purple Fest Goa 2025.

International Purple Fest has emerged as a powerful global platform celebrating diversity, resilience, talent, and the limitless potential of persons with disabilities. The Festival not only showcases achievements across art, culture, sports, entrepreneurship, and leadership, but also reinforces a strong message — that inclusion is a collective responsibility and a fundamental human right.

This Coffee Table Book beautifully captures the vibrancy, spirit, and transformative impact of Purple Fest. Each page reflects stories of courage, innovation, and collaboration that are shaping a more accessible and equitable society. It stands as a reminder that accessibility is not an act of charity, but a matter of justice, dignity, and equal opportunity.

Initiatives such as Purple Fest strengthen inter-state and national partnerships, encouraging institutions and governments to adopt inclusive policies and accessible infrastructure. The commitment demonstrated through this Festival sets an inspiring benchmark for inclusive governance and community participation.

I congratulate the Government of Goa, the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, and all stakeholders for conceptualising and successfully organising this remarkable international event. May the spirit of Purple Fest continue to inspire us to build a society where no one is left behind.
With best wishes for continued success.



Mrs. Varsha Naik

Director, Department for Empowerment of
Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa

The International Purple Fest has become a catalyst for meaningful change by transforming conversations on inclusion into actionable outcomes. It has helped, identify priorities, strengthen partnerships and reinforce the importance of accessibility as a core element of development and governance.

The momentum generated through successive editions of the Purple Fest directly contributed to the establishment of the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in 2024, providing a dedicated institutional framework to advance this vision. Since then, focused efforts have been undertaken to improve accessibility of government infrastructure and services, enhance access to assistive devices, promote inclusive education and employment through coordinated implementation.

As the implementing arm of the State's inclusion agenda, the Department remains committed to building a barrier-free, responsive, and empowering ecosystem for persons with disabilities. The Purple Fest continues to guide this journey by inspiring innovation, collaboration, and sustained action towards an inclusive Goa.



Shri. Taha Haaziq

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

The International Purple Fest Goa 2025 has once again demonstrated its role as a dynamic platform for advancing inclusion and accessibility. This year's Fest brought together a diverse range of stakeholders through multiple tracks, activities, and conferences Each designed to highlight different facets of empowerment for persons with disabilities—from education and employment to health, sports, arts, and assistive technologies.

The carefully curated sessions, interactive workshops, and panel discussions provided opportunities for knowledge sharing, policy dialogue, and showcasing best practices. The Fest has strengthened collaboration among government departments, civil society, corporates, and persons with disabilities themselves, driving innovative solutions and actionable outcomes.

As the Secretary of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, I am proud to see the Purple Fest not only celebrating abilities but also shaping policies, inspiring initiatives, and building a stronger ecosystem for an Inclusive Goa.



INTERNATIONAL
PURPLE FEST™
GOA-2025

NOT JUST AN EVENT, IT'S A MOVEMENT



INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST™
GOA-2025

The International Purple Fest Goa 2025, held from 9th to 12th October 2025, was a grand celebration of inclusion, accessibility, and diversity. Organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Goa and the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, in collaboration with the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, and United Nations India, this edition marked a significant milestone in the journey of the Purple Movement.

With the theme "Inclusive Thinking and Universal Design," the fest brought together minds and hearts from across the world to celebrate the spirit of inclusion. This year, International Purple Fest Goa 2025 witnessed an overwhelming participation of over 15,000 registrations from across the globe and attracted more than one lakh visitors to the venue. Representatives from over 15 countries joined hands to advance the vision of a more inclusive and accessible world.

The fest was not just an event it was a movement. Across its eight major tracks the Purple Conference, Purple Experience Zone, Purple Exhibition Zone, Purple Kaliedoscope, Purple Rain, Purple Sports, Purple Fun, and Purple Street participants explored, engaged, and experienced inclusion in innovative ways. Each segment offered unique insights, creativity, and opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and joy.

The pages that follow capture the essence of this extraordinary celebration, its people, performances, partnerships, and passion that together made the International Purple Fest Goa 2025 a global benchmark for inclusion.

PRE EVENT





Rabb Di Awaaz

Pre-Event Film Screening at the International Purple Fest

As part of the International Purple Fest, a special pre-event screening of “Rabb Di Awaaz” marked a significant moment in India’s journey toward inclusive cinema. Directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Ojaswwee Sharma, the film stands as India’s first multi-inclusive and multi-accessible Hindi feature film, redefining how stories can be told and experienced by everyone.

The screening celebrated the film’s powerful message of empathy, mental well-being and inclusion while showcasing its pioneering accessibility features including audio descriptions, Indian Sign Language interpretation and closed captions. More than a cinematic experience, Rabb Di Awaaz amplifies unheard voices and challenges conventional narratives by authentically representing persons with disabilities both on screen and behind the scenes.

This pre-event screening at the International Purple Fest reaffirmed a collective commitment to accessibility, dignity, and equal participation, setting the tone for a festival that celebrates diversity, talent, and the power of inclusive storytelling.

PRE EVENT



Wheelchair Cricket

Wheelchair Cricket at the International Purple Fest 2025, held in Ponda, Goa, as part of the Purple Sports segment, emerged as one of the most inspiring highlights of the festival. Featuring participation from various state blind cricket teams along with enthusiastic women's blind cricket teams, the event went far beyond competition—it became a living expression of courage, equality, and sporting excellence. Against the empowering backdrop of Goa, players from across regions displayed exceptional skill, coordination, and determination, captivating audiences and breaking stereotypes. Their spirited performance powerfully conveyed that when platforms are inclusive, talent flourishes without limits. This memorable blind cricket event at Purple Fest 2025 reaffirmed the role of sport in uniting communities, promoting accessibility, and inspiring society to truly recognize ability beyond disability.





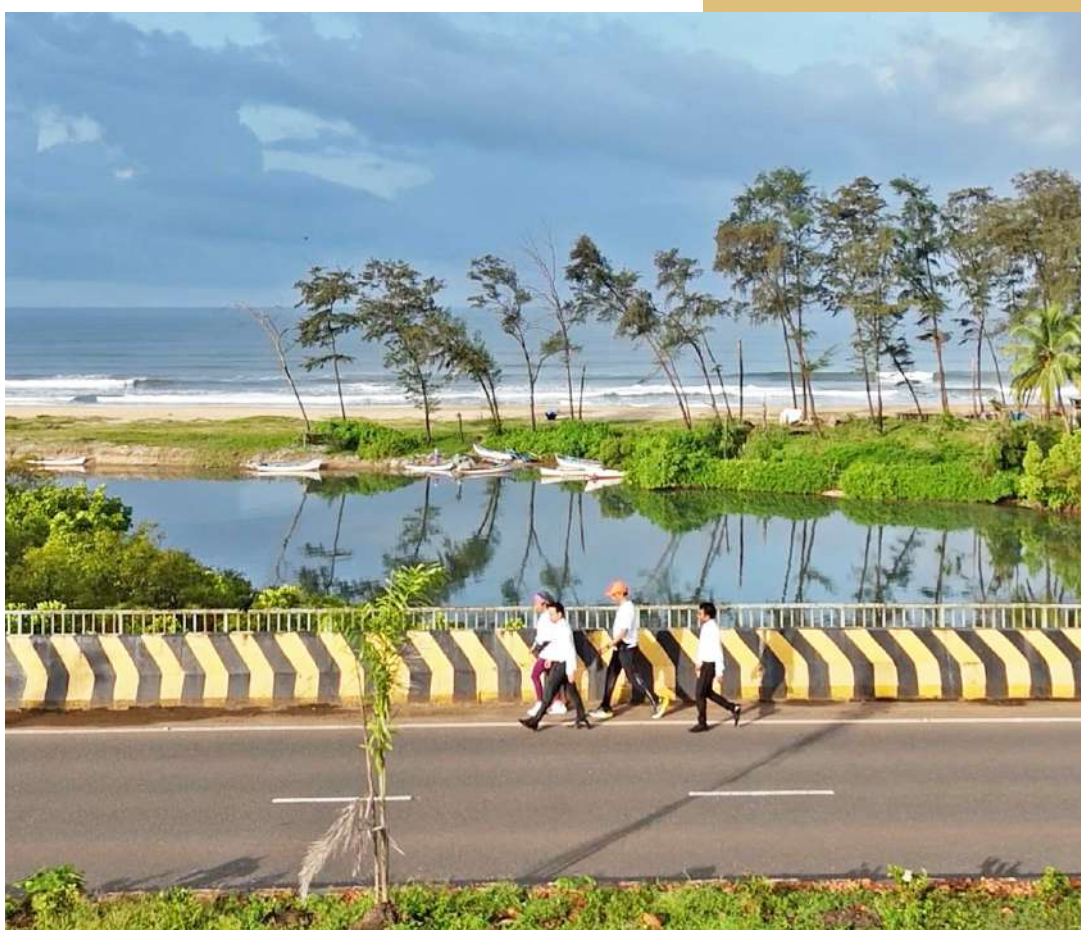
APNA ARCAUSE
Purple Walk Goa 100

The APNA ARCAUSE Purple Walk Goa 100 was a landmark initiative aligned with the International Purple Fest 2025, transforming a 100-kilometre walk from Karwar to Panjim (4–8 October 2025) into a powerful advocacy journey for Universal Design and accessibility. Led by Architect Gita Balakrishnan, Founder of Ethos Foundation and the Asia-Pacific Network for Accessibility (APNA), the walk underscored accessibility as a collective responsibility rather than an afterthought.

Spanning diverse landscapes and public spaces, the walk became a moving forum for dialogue, engaging communities, students, professionals, and festival participants in conversations on inclusive environments. Supported by a wide network of national and international partners, the initiative culminated at the Entertainment Society of Goa with the presentation of the Purple Walk Manifesto, reinforcing the call to embed accessibility and dignity into India's built environment. The Purple Walk Goa 100 stood as a catalyst for systemic change—taking the spirit of Purple Fest beyond venues and into everyday public life.







PURPLE HIGHLIGHTS



Inclusive Water Sports Experience

One of the most inspiring highlights of Purple Fest 2025 was the inclusion of water sports for persons with disabilities under the Purple Fun Track. For the first time, participants got to experience the thrill of scuba diving, jet skiing, and parasailing, supported by trained professionals and adaptive equipment. This initiative embodied the spirit of inclusion proving that adventure has no boundaries when accessibility is prioritized.

Accessibility Milestones

Purple Fest 2025 set a national benchmark in accessible event design, integrating Universal Design across physical and digital spaces. Inclusive wayfinding through tactile maps, high-contrast pathways, beacon-based navigation, and QR-enabled audio, ISL, and text resources ensured independent mobility. A first-of-its-kind multi-sensory communication system featuring AAC panels, Braille, pictograms, AI captioning, and sign language interpretation enabled true multi-modal access.

Despite heritage restrictions at ESG premises, including Maquinez Palace and Old GMC, complete accessibility was achieved through sensitive interventions such as ramps, lifts, and tactile tiles preserving heritage while enabling barrier-free movement. Across Panjim, 90 ramps at 65 locations, over 400 tactile and AAC panels, 100+ QR signages, and 30 accessible zones were created. Trained volunteers and hospitality partners fostered inclusive engagement, resulting in 1,000+ inclusive interactions daily, making Purple Fest 2025 India's most comprehensive inclusive festival to date.

Volunteer Engagement

Volunteer Management at Purple Fest 2025 was executed through a structured, inclusive, and people-centric framework that ensured seamless on-ground operations across all venues. From screening and training to deployment and daily coordination, volunteers were carefully selected, sensitised through induction, POSH, and disability awareness programmes, and placed based on skill and venue requirements.

Dedicated systems were established for grievance redressal, medical emergencies, meal distribution, and daily reporting, ensuring discipline, punctuality, and smooth inter-venue coordination. Heritage and city-wide locations were efficiently managed through meticulous planning, continuous motivation, and real-time supervision, while detailed post-event documentation captured learnings and best practices. This robust volunteer management model played a vital role in upholding the values of dignity, accessibility, and inclusivity that defined Purple Fest 2025.



Inclusive Podcast Series

A unique engagement and knowledge-sharing highlight of the International Purple Fest 2025 was a four-day podcast series hosted by Mr. Nipun Malhotra of the India Autism Center. The series featured conversations with 38 individuals, including persons with and without disabilities, creating an inclusive platform that amplified diverse voices and lived experiences.

The podcast provided an open and reflective space for discussions on disability inclusion, assistive technologies, lived realities, rights-based approaches, and the future of neurodiversity in India. Through meaningful dialogue among experts, advocates, caregivers, professionals, and neurodivergent individuals, the series fostered awareness, understanding, and collective reflection, reinforcing the Fest's commitment to inclusive storytelling and dialogue.

PURPLE HIGHLIGHTS

Accessible Media Partnership – ISH News

ISH News served as a media partner for Purple Fest, providing comprehensive and inclusive media coverage to ensure the festival reached persons with disabilities across the country. Through pre-event outreach, on-ground reporting, and post-event highlights, ISH News amplified the vision and impact of Purple Fest using accessible formats including Indian Sign Language, captions, voice-overs, and visual storytelling.

A dedicated on-ground media team, comprising Deaf professionals and ISL interpreters, documented festival activities, participant experiences, and inclusive innovations, while post-event videos and digital content extended the festival's reach beyond physical venues. This partnership played a crucial role in ensuring timely information dissemination, visibility, and meaningful engagement for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community, reinforcing Purple Fest's commitment to accessibility, representation, and inclusive communication.

Comprehensive Digital Registration through the Purple Fest App

This year, registration for all events and activities was made fully digital through the International Purple Fest Goa mobile application, developed and managed by Iway Plus. Participants could conveniently register for individual tracks and sessions, access schedules, and stay updated throughout the fest. This tech-driven approach ensured efficiency, transparency, and ease of access, reinforcing the fest's commitment to universal design and digital inclusion.

24x7 Independent Helpline by Aastha Team

An exclusive 24x7 Helpline was set up and managed by the Aastha Team to ensure seamless communication and assistance before and during the International Purple Fest Goa 2025. The dedicated helpline provided real-time support, addressed participant queries, and guided visitors on various aspects of the fest. The round-the-clock commitment of the Aastha Team played a crucial role in enhancing accessibility and ensuring a smooth experience for all.



Sign Language and Tactile Interpretation Support

ASLIA and ISLIA played a critical role in ensuring communication accessibility at Purple Fest by providing 40 sign language interpreters and 4 tactile interpreters across festival venues. The interpreters enabled seamless access to sessions, performances, and public engagements for Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing, and Deafblind participants. A notable highlight was their interpretation of Purple Rain, where live musical performances and songs were interpreted through expressive sign language and dance-based interpretation, transforming music into a visually immersive and inclusive experience. This comprehensive interpretation support significantly enhanced participation, cultural engagement, and accessibility, reinforcing Purple Fest's commitment to inclusive and barrier-free communication.



Kaiteki Innovations – GUKO Bidet Distribution Drive

Kaiteki Innovations advanced its mission of dignity and independence through the distribution of 100 GUKO Bidet units to beneficiaries during the International Purple Fest Goa 2025. Supported by Enable India, the initiative empowered persons with disabilities with comfort, hygiene, and self-reliance. Each distribution marked inclusion in action — innovation rooted in empathy and respect. This effort also reflected the spirit of the Purple Economy, where accessibility, innovation, and equality drive sustainable change. Kaiteki continues to shape a world where inclusion becomes everyday practice, not exception.





A Journey of Determination : Driving Inclusion Across India

In a remarkable display of resilience and advocacy, Sunil Mangal from Kanpur undertook an inspiring road journey to be part of the International Purple Fest Goa 2025. A polio survivor who navigates life using calipers and crutches, Sunil drove his adapted car nearly 1,900 kilometers from Kanpur to Goa, spreading awareness about disability inclusion along the way.

With his vehicle painted in Purple Fest messages and slogans, the journey became a moving campaign for accessibility and empowerment. Travelling across cities and states, he carried forward a powerful message — that determination knows no barriers.

Sunil reached Goa on 9 October, marking the culmination of an extraordinary journey that symbolized courage, advocacy, and the spirit of inclusion that defines the Purple Fest movement.



The Godhadi Project : A Collective Imagination of Inclusion

The Godhadi Project emerged as a powerful symbol of collective creativity and inclusion during the International Purple Fest Goa 2025. This unique collaborative art installation brought together 2,000 textile artworks created by students from 30 schools, each piece thoughtfully designed to reflect empathy and engagement with the experiences of persons with disabilities.

Conceptualised and implemented by the Museum of Goa Foundation with the support of the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa and the Goa Industrial Development Corporation, the installation presented countless individual expressions stitched together into one vibrant tapestry. Much like a traditional godhadi, the artwork symbolized diverse voices coming together to create a unified vision of inclusion, inspiring reflection on how society sees, understands, and supports persons with disabilities.

PURPLE HIGHLIGHTS



Tandem Cycling : Riding Together Towards Inclusion

Tandem Cycling at the International Purple Fest Goa 2025 emerged as a powerful symbol of partnership, trust, and shared determination. Organised with the support of the Happy Humans Foundation, the activity enabled persons with visual impairments to experience the thrill of cycling alongside trained sighted pilots.

Participants rode together in perfect coordination, demonstrating how collaboration can break barriers and create new experiences in sports and recreation. More than just a cycling activity, it reflected the spirit of inclusion, confidence, and freedom, allowing riders to explore mobility and adventure in an empowering environment.

The initiative highlighted how adaptive sports and thoughtful collaboration can open doors to new possibilities, reinforcing the vision of the Purple Fest—a world where everyone can participate, experience, and celebrate without barriers.





PURPLE AMBASSADORS

PURPLE AMBASSADORS



22 voices...
22 lived experiences...
One shared vision...

Born at Purple Fest 2023–24, Purple Ambassadors represent the 21 disability types under the RPwD Act, 2016. Chosen from across India, they stand for visibility, dignity, and inclusion ensuring that lived experiences lead every conversation.

Purple is not a colour...
It is representation !!!



Danish Mahajan

Person with Blindness

From Pathankot, Punjab, Danish Mahajan is a nationally recognised advocate whose work bridges disability rights, storytelling, and social change. A National Awardee (2024), he is the founder of Radio Udaan, India's first community radio operated entirely by persons with disabilities—an idea born from the belief that voices, when given space, can reshape society.

Through more than 1,500 episodes of Badalta Daur, Danish has amplified conversations on accessibility, legal awareness, and lived experiences, reaching communities far beyond traditional platforms. His voice has carried stories of resilience, challenged stereotypes, and opened pathways for dialogue and understanding.

Honoured by the President of India, Danish's journey spans media, theatre, public speaking, and legal advocacy, allowing him to engage hearts as well as institutions. As a Purple Ambassador representing the Visually Impaired community, he brings lived experience to the forefront—standing for dignity, equal access, and the conviction that inclusion is strongest when people are heard, seen, and valued for who they are.



Sakshi Kale

Person with Low Vision

From Ponda, Goa, Sakshi Kale strides forward as a symbol of focus, strength, and quiet determination. A committed para-athlete in the Low Vision (T2) category, she has spent the last three years carving her space in Indian para athletics across track and field with discipline and resilience.

Sakshi's journey is marked by consistent excellence on national and international stages. Her achievements include multiple podium finishes at the Senior and Junior National Para Championships, medals at the Open India Para International Championship, and strong performances at landmark events such as the Khelo India Para Games and the Indian National Para Games. In 2025, she added a global milestone to her journey by winning Gold in the 400 metres at the World International Para Athletics event in Paris.

Beyond championships, Sakshi continues to challenge limits winning long-distance road races in Goa, competing at inter-university cross-country events, and representing the spirit of perseverance in every stride. A graduate in Vocational Computer Science, she balances sport with learning, embodying discipline both on and off the field.

As a Purple Ambassador representing the Low Vision community, Sakshi Kale inspires through action. Her journey speaks of dedication, mental resilience, and the belief that sport is not just about medals but about visibility, inclusion, and the courage to keep moving forward.

PURPLE AMBASSADORS



Suvarna Raj

Person with Locomotor Disability

Suvarna Raj is a force of movement across tracks, institutions, and mindsets. A multi-award-winning international para-athlete, disability rights activist, and National Awardee for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, she has been honoured by the President of India for her unwavering commitment to inclusion and accessibility.

Globally recognised for her impact, Suvarna is the first woman with disability in the world to receive the United Nations SDG Action Award, acknowledging her pioneering work in advancing accessibility and inclusive development. As an Accessibility Auditor, she has conducted over 1,100 access audits across India transforming government buildings, courts, hospitals, railway stations, schools, and public spaces into environments that recognise dignity and access as fundamental rights.

A long-standing advocate for democratic participation, Suvarna has championed Accessible Elections since 2014 as a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Member of the Election Commission of India, and since 2024, serves as a Brand Ambassador for Accessible Elections ensuring that the right to vote is accessible to all.

Alongside advocacy, Suvarna continues to excel as a para-athlete, representing India on international platforms and earning numerous medals at national and global competitions. Her journey, marked by honours such as the National Youth Award, NCPEDP–Mphasis Universal Design Award, and multiple gold medals, reflects a life dedicated to excellence with purpose.



Pramodini Roul

Acid Attack Survivor

Pramodhini Raul, an acid attack survivor from Odisha, is a powerful symbol of courage, resilience, and transformation. As Purple Ambassador 2025, she represents the strength of lived experience turned into purposeful advocacy. Rising above personal adversity, she has dedicated her life to social change as a motivational speaker, campaigner, and acid attack survivor-advocate. With an educational background in Intermediate (+2 Arts), PGDCA, counselling, and classical dance, she is also a writer who believes deeply in the power of expression as a pathway to healing and empowerment. She actively leads campaigns advocating for a ban on acid sales and works tirelessly towards preventing child sexual abuse.

Currently associated with the Sheroes Hangout Café, she continues to inspire individuals and communities across Odisha and beyond, championing women's safety, inclusion, and self-reliance. Her extraordinary journey and unwavering commitment have been recognised through several prestigious honours, including the Odisha Mirror Award (2019), the State Award on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (2018), the Women Safety Award conferred by the Biju Patnaik State Police Academy, the OTV Prerana Award, and the Zee Sarthak Award.

PURPLE AMBASSADORS



Xerif Shaikh

Person with Hemophilia

From Vasco da Gama, Goa, Xerif Shaikh brings lived experience, quiet leadership, and unwavering commitment to the disability movement. Living with Severe Hemophilia A and hemophilic arthritis, his journey is one shaped by resilience, responsibility, and a deep belief in the power of awareness and timely care.

With over 25 years of professional experience spanning electronics, information technology, and public administration, Xerif currently serves at Goa University, where he plays a key role in managing postgraduate results and academic records. Alongside his professional life, he has dedicated decades to advocacy as Joint Treasurer of the Hemophilia Society Panaji Chapter, affiliated with the Hemophilia Federation of India.

Xerif is a committed voice for early diagnosis, access to prophylactic treatment, and standard care for persons with hemophilia. Through public forums, medical camps, awareness drives, and community outreach often in collaboration with Goa Medical College and NGOs he shares his personal story to inspire caregivers, medical professionals, and families navigating similar paths.

As a Purple Ambassador, Xerif Shaikh stands for informed care, mobility with dignity, and the vision of a future where “zero bleeds” is not an aspiration but a reality. His presence reflects the strength of advocacy rooted in experience, and the power of turning personal challenges into collective progress.



Mark Dharmai

Person with Dwarfism

From Bandra, Mumbai, Mark Dharmai embodies resilience, excellence, and advocacy. A proud person with dwarfism, he has brought international recognition to India through his achievements in para sports, while tirelessly championing inclusion, awareness, and empowerment for the disability community.

Mark’s sporting journey is extraordinary. A Gold Medalist at the World Dwarf Games 2023 in Boccia, he has also represented India in Para Badminton, Shot Put, and Javelin Throw, earning accolades at both national and international levels. His dedication has been recognized with the Eklavya State Award (2018–2019) and the District Award, Mumbai Suburban (2021).

Beyond the field, Mark is a compelling advocate and public speaker, sharing his story on platforms like TEDx, Josh Talks, National TV, and All India Radio, challenging stereotypes and inspiring communities. As a founding member of the Little People India Foundation, he mentors and empowers persons with dwarfism, building a connected and supportive community across India.

As a Purple Ambassador representing the Dwarfism community, Mark Dharmai stands for courage, visibility, and inclusion—showing that barriers exist only to be overcome, and that leadership rooted in empathy can create lasting change.

PURPLE AMBASSADORS



Jyoti Sinha

Person with Muscular Dystrophy

From Changel village, Muzaffarpur, Bihar, Jyoti Sinha embodies resilience, creativity, and the triumph of spirit over circumstance. Living with Muscular Dystrophy, a rare genetic disease, Jyoti faced immense challenges from an early age, along with her twin brothers.

Jyoti is an accomplished artist and educator, teaching Madhubani painting to women and girls from marginalized communities, creating opportunities and empowering lives. Guided by mentors like Dr. Prof. Umesh Kumar Utpal Guru, she pursued higher education, completing her M.A. in Hindi, clearing UGC NET, and is currently pursuing a PhD at Lalit Narayan Mithila University.

Her extraordinary contributions have earned her numerous honours, including the Rajya Puraskar (2015–16), Sita Devi Puraskar (2016–17), and the Best Disabled Person Award 2023 presented by Her Excellency President of India, Smt. Draupadi Murmu. Her inspiring journey was immortalized in the story 'Punarjanma', performed theatrically at Premchand Rangshala and Bihar Museum.

As a Purple Ambassador representing persons with Muscular Dystrophy, Jyoti Sinha shines as a symbol of courage, creativity, and unwavering determination proving that passion, perseverance, and belief can turn life's challenges into a canvas of achievement, inspiration, and hope.



Dr. Aditya Lohia

Person with Cerebral Palsy

Dr. Aditya Lohiya, a young medical professional with cerebral palsy from Akola, Maharashtra, exemplifies determination, excellence, and service. An MBBS graduate from Government Medical College, Akola, he is currently pursuing post-graduation in MD Respiratory Medicine, driven by a deep commitment to clinical care and inclusive healthcare.

Beyond academics and medical practice, Dr. Lohiya has emerged as a strong advocate for persons with disabilities, contributing actively to initiatives that promote dignity, accessibility, and equal opportunity. His efforts in the field of disability rights and inclusion have earned him wide recognition, including the Unsung Hero Award by the Rotary Club of Bangalore for his contributions towards empowering persons with disabilities, the Achiever with Cerebral Palsy Award conferred by ADAPT Mumbai in 2022, and the Empower Ability Excellence Award in March 2024. Through his journey, Dr. Aditya Lohiya continues to challenge stereotypes, inspire young professionals, and redefine what inclusive excellence truly means.

PURPLE AMBASSADORS



Sadiya Bandodkar

Person with Hearing Impairment

Sadiya Bandodkar, a deaf entrepreneur and community leader from Pilerne, Bardez, Goa, is a strong voice for creativity, inclusion, and women's empowerment. Educated up to HSSC, with a Diploma in Fashion Designing and training in Computer Graphics, she is the founder of Sadiya's Fashion & Earrings, Goa's first deaf-woman-led fashion stall created to serve and celebrate the Deaf community. A Mandala artist, she has showcased her work at various exhibitions and public platforms.

With over five years of service to the Deaf community, Sadiya is an active member of the Goa Association of the Deaf and an Executive Committee Member of the Goa Sports Council of the Deaf.

Her leadership has been recognised through honours such as Second Runner-Up at Mrs. India Fashion of the Deaf during Purple Fest 2023, the Artist Award at the 15th Anniversary of GAD, and the Women's Day Award by Tarang JCI, Bardez. As Purple Ambassador for the International Purple Fest Goa 2025, she continues to champion Deaf women's empowerment, visibility, and inclusion.



Jharna Mallick

Person with Thalassemia Major

Jharna Mallick, living with thalassemia major, currently resides in Delhi and hails from Jajpur district, Odisha. A graduate in Economics, she has transformed her lived experience into impactful leadership in the field of thalassemia advocacy and patient rights. She is the Founder of the Institution of Thalassemia Disabled and Warriors, a formal trust working across states to improve access to safe blood transfusions, promote quality treatment practices, and provide sustained support to patients and their families.

She also serves as Director of the Sarvesham Mangalam Foundation (Delhi NCR), where she leads initiatives such as blood donation camps, treatment awareness, and advocacy for persons living with thalassemia. Her work has received national and international recognition, including representing Odisha at the International Thalassemia Federation Conference in 2023.

Through her journey, Jharna Mallick continues to champion awareness, dignity, and equitable healthcare.

PURPLE AMBASSADORS



Khushi Ganatra

Person with Multiple Disabilities

Khushi Ganatra, from Mumbai, Maharashtra, is a dynamic changemaker who has turned resilience into impact across sports, social inclusion, and youth leadership. She is the Founder of the Walk N Wheels Foundation, through which she has organised inclusive events and delivered vocational training programmes for persons with disabilities, fostering empowerment and equal opportunity.

A distinguished sportsperson, Khushi has won over 35 national medals across powerlifting, wheelchair lawn tennis, and wheelchair basketball, and has represented India at the 30th World Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Conference in Malaysia. Her influence extends beyond sport and advocacy—she has served as Brand Ambassador for Force IX, a fashion initiative by Akshay Kumar, and was featured on Sony TV's Superstar Singer–2: Bharat Ki Betiyaan.

Notably, she became the first wheelchair user and the youngest woman from Mumbai's Kutchi Lohana community to be elected to the Youth Forum, securing the highest number of votes. Through her journey, Khushi Ganatra continues to inspire inclusive leadership, confidence, and social change.



Dr. Meenakshi Venkataraman

Persons with Parkinsons Diseases

Dr. Meenakshi Venkataraman, from PO Balacola, The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, is an ecologist, climate adaptation specialist, and advocate for persons living with chronic neurological conditions. With nearly three decades of lived experience with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), Parkinson's disease, and early dementia, she exemplifies resilience while driving impact in environmental and disability causes.

Her professional work includes developing climate adaptation models in the Sundarbans and Chidambaram and leading community-based ecological restoration initiatives. She has represented Rotary International as a delegate at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), contributing to global discussions on land use and biodiversity conservation.

Recognised for her remarkable achievements, Dr. Venkataraman was also invited to the Home Reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan on Republic Day 2025. Through her journey, she continues to inspire a unique intersection of environmental stewardship, disability advocacy, and lived experience leadership.



Rusha Chowdhury

Person with Speech Disability

Rusha Chowdhury, from Kolkata, West Bengal, is a scholar, researcher, and creative professional who exemplifies the intersection of academic excellence and advocacy. A PhD aspirant in English Literature with a focus on stammering research and Critical Disability Studies, she has presented papers at multiple national and international conferences and published extensively on disability, gender, and literary studies. She has qualified NET for Assistant Professor and GATE, reflecting her scholarly rigor.

Beyond academia, Rusha is deeply committed to teaching and community engagement. She has worked as a Teaching Fellow with Teach For India, designed curriculum for girls' schools in Assam in collaboration with UNICEF, and currently serves as Editorial Assistant for Creativitas Journal, contributing to literary scholarship through proofreading, content curation, and mentoring.

A talented creative, she also produces comic strips and short animated clips, using art to amplify voices and experiences of persons with disabilities. Through her research, teaching, and creative work, Rusha Chowdhury continues to inspire inclusive education, representation, and empowerment.



N. Sai Balaji

Person with Specific Learning Disability

N. Sai Balaji, based in Delhi, is an accomplished scholar and independent researcher living with a specific learning disability. Trained in journalism during his undergraduate studies, he went on to complete his Master's, MPhil, and PhD in International Relations from the Diplomacy and Disarmament Division of the Centre for International Politics, Organisation and Disarmament, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

He briefly served as an Assistant Professor, teaching Political Science and International Relations, and is presently an independent consultant and researcher engaged in projects related to diplomacy, international politics, and disarmament. Through his academic and professional journey, Sai Balaji continues to inspire inclusive excellence, demonstrating how determination and scholarship can transcend challenges.

PURPLE AMBASSADORS



Girish Dongre

Person with Sickle Cell

Girish Dongre, 21, from Mumbai, is a gifted artist and a passionate advocate for individuals living with Sickle Cell Disease (SCD). Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts (3rd Year) at Sir J. J. School of Arts, he seamlessly combines his artistic talents with social commitment to create meaningful impact in the Sickle Cell community.

Girish has been actively involved with the National Alliance of Sickle Cell Organisations (NASCO), contributing to advocacy and awareness initiatives. He uses his skills to create and present portraits of renowned politicians, which are gifted on behalf of the Indian Sickle Cell community, helping to highlight the challenges and aspirations of those living with SCD. His work not only raises awareness but also promotes the welfare, inclusion, and dignity of persons affected by the condition.

Through his journey, Girish exemplifies how creativity, passion, and advocacy can intersect to drive social change. As a young Sickle Cell warrior, he continues to inspire the community, demonstrating resilience, leadership, and the power of using one's talents for a larger cause.



Srinidhi Raghavan

Person with Psychosocial Disability

Srinidhi (she/her) is a disabled feminist, educator, writer, and researcher, working at the intersections of sexuality, gender, disability, and technology. As Programmes Lead at Rising Flame, she has spent the past 14 years advancing conversations around sexuality, mental health, chronic illness, and disability. Her work focuses on how technology intersects with disability, building social, emotional, and disability support systems, advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, and imagining inclusive, feminist spaces both online and offline.

In addition, Srinidhi engages with adolescents, facilitators, and parents at The Learning Centre, Moira, helping build more resilient and nurturing relationships. She provides holistic social, emotional, and disability support for learners, fostering environments where disabled people can thrive. Through her leadership and advocacy, Srinidhi exemplifies empowerment, inclusion, and transformative change in the disability and feminist spaces.

PURPLE AMBASSADORS



Gauri Gadgil

Person with Intellectual Disability

Gauri Gadgil is an accomplished athlete, artist, and performer who exemplifies determination, talent, and resilience. With an MA in Sociology, MS-CIT certification, and Level 1 coaching in swimming, she has developed her strengths in swimming and dance, representing excellence both in sports and the arts.

Gauri has achieved national and international recognition, including the National Special Mention Award by the Government of India and a Role Model Award for her achievements as an international sports champion. She has participated in four international competitions and numerous state and national-level events. Beyond sports, Gauri has made her mark in cinema, playing the main role in the Marathi movie YELLOW, which went on to receive a National Award. Through her multifaceted achievements, Gauri Gadgil continues to inspire inclusion, empowerment, and excellence across sports, arts, and media.



Pranav Bakhshi

Person with Autism

Pranav Bakshi, from Anandlok, Sadiq Nagar, New Delhi, is India's first model with autism and a multifaceted professional who combines creativity, advocacy, and visibility for persons with disabilities. He works with Thomson Reuters and has established himself as an award-winning photographer and a budding writer with published articles.

Pranav has delivered four TEDx talks, sharing his experiences and insights to inspire and educate diverse audiences. Actively engaged in disability rights, he has served as a committee member in meetings led by government ministries and has been invited to the Home Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in recognition of his contributions. Through his work in modelling, photography, writing, and advocacy, Pranav Bakshi continues to challenge stereotypes, foster inclusion, and amplify the voices of persons with autism.

PURPLE AMBASSADORS



Jayshree P. K.

Leprosy Cured Person

Jayshree P K, based in Bangalore, is a pioneering advocate, leader, and storyteller who has transformed her lived experience as a leprosy cured person into impactful action. She currently serves as CEO of iBAS Global, Vice Chair of IDEA International, Trustee of the Global Leprosy Alliance for Zero Stigma, and General Body Member of LEPRA Society India.

Jayshree is recognised for her advocacy and storytelling, becoming the first Indian woman to publicly share her leprosy journey through social media, films, and radio. She has contributed to research and policy by co-authoring guides on stigma and mental health in neglected tropical diseases and acting as co-applicant on a five-year UK-funded global health project with the University of Birmingham. In addition, she actively promotes ethical storytelling, provides financial consulting, and supports fundraising for health and disability-focused NGOs. Through her work, Jayshree P K continues to inspire inclusion, dignity, and systemic change for persons affected by leprosy and other marginalised communities.



Swarnalata J

Person with Multiple Sclerosis

Swarnalata J is a dynamic achiever and advocate living with Multiple Sclerosis, whose journey embodies resilience, creativity, and leadership. She has been honoured with the Sarvashresht Divyangjan Award by the Governor of Tamil Nadu and is a motivational speaker at TEDx events, inspiring audiences with her story of determination and empowerment.

Beyond advocacy, Swarnalata is a multifaceted artist—an accomplished singer, photographer, and the 218th Mrs. India Beauty Pageant (South) winner. She is also the founder of Swarga Foundation, an NGO dedicated to promoting inclusion and supporting persons with disabilities. Through her work in arts, advocacy, and social initiatives, Swarnalata continues to champion visibility, representation, and opportunity for the disabled community.



Dr. Preethi Srinivasan

Person with Spinal Cord Injury

Dr. Preethi Shrinivasan, from Tamil Nadu, is a trailblazing scholar, advocate, and social entrepreneur living with a spinal cord injury. She made history as the first woman with quadriplegia to successfully complete her PhD in the history of India from IIT Madras.

Dr. Shrinivasan is the founder of Soulfree, a public charitable trust, and the architect of a unique framework for individualised, holistic rehabilitation programs at the Soulfree INSPIRE Centre, India's first integrated spinal rehabilitation centre in Tamil Nadu. A TEDx speaker and recipient of the prestigious Kalpana Chawla Award, she continues to inspire through her leadership, advocacy, and commitment to creating inclusive, empowering rehabilitation solutions for persons with spinal cord injuries.



INAUGURATION

PURPLE INAUGURATION

The Inauguration of the International Purple Fest Goa 2025 was held on 9th October 2025 and marked a momentous beginning to India's largest inclusive festival. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Dr Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa; Dr Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Union Minister for Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Govt of India; Shri Ramdas Athawale, Hon'ble Minister of State for Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt of India; and Shri Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble Minister for the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt of Goa. Distinguished dignitaries including Shri Sadanand Tanawade, Member of Rajya Sabha; Shri Shripad Naik, Hon'ble Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy; Shri Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator, United Nations India; Shri Rajesh Agarwal, Secretary, Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disbailities, Govt of India ; Shri Prasanna Acharya, Secretary, Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Govt of Goa; Smt Varsha Naik, Director, DEPwD; Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities; and Shri Taha Haaziq, Secretary, SCPwD, were also present. The inaugural programme featured captivating cultural performances and the launch of key initiatives, setting the tone for a festival dedicated to inclusion, accessibility, and empowerment.







PURPLE THINK TANK

Date : 9th and 10th October

Curated by : National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People

Supported by : Bajaj Finserv and Mphasis F1 Foundation

PURPLE THINK TANK

Session 1

Addressing Health Insurance Challenges for Persons with Disabilities



The session brought together a distinguished panel featuring :

- Mr. Sandeep Chitnis, National Secretary, Multiple Sclerosis Society of India (MSSI)
- Mr. Thaneshwar Kumar Nishad, Ex–Javed Abidi Fellow
- Dr. Meerambika Mahapatro, Professor and Head, National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW)
- Mr. Sumit Chauhan, CSR Head, Mphasis
- Mr. Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP
- Mr. Avelino De Sa, Founder, Disability Rights Association of Goa (DRAG)

The discussion was moderated by Dr. Harikeethan Raghuram, Associate Director (Health Equity), Sangath India.

This panel explored persistent barriers and emerging opportunities in making health insurance more inclusive for persons with disabilities. A key theme was the need for accessible and affordable insurance coverage that encompasses rehabilitation services and assistive devices. It was noted that Ayushman Bharat health insurance cover must extend to all disabled people, similar to how the insurance was granted to all persons of old age. Panellists stressed that community participation is crucial in designing effective and responsive insurance policies.

The discussion also underscored the importance of simplifying claim procedures, ensuring disability-sensitive customer support, and fostering collaboration between insurers, government agencies, and disability organizations. These steps were identified as essential to improve awareness, accessibility, and utilization of health insurance schemes for persons with disabilities.

Session 2

Census 2027 and Disability Considerations



The second session featured a distinguished panel comprising :

- Shri. Jayant Kumar Banthia, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra and former Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India
- Adv. Kanchan Pamnani, Advocate & Solicitor, Bombay High Court
- Adv. Abhishek Kumar, Ex–Javed Abidi Fellow, NCPEDP
- Mr. Rajive Raturi, Strategic Advisor, Saksham Trust
- Mr. Naman Khatwani, Lead Legal & Policy Consultant, Pacta
- Smt. Manmeet Kaur Nanda, Additional Secretary, DEPwD
- Mr. Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP

Moderator : Mr. Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP

The session was moderated by Mr. Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP, and commenced with a warm welcome and thematic introduction by Ms. Kanchan Pamnani.

Focusing on “Census 2027 and Disability Considerations,” the discussion explored strategies to ensure accurate, inclusive, and ethical disability data collection to inform evidence-based policymaking. Panelists emphasized the importance of comprehensive and sensitive survey tools that can capture the diversity of disability experiences across India.

The dialogue further highlighted adopting a rights-based approach to safeguard data privacy and promote ethical data use. Additionally, participants underscored the potential of technology-driven, real-time data validation to enhance the reliability and accuracy of disability statistics.

The session concluded with a shared understanding that inclusive data collection is foundational to shaping equitable policies and ensuring representation of persons with disabilities in national development planning

PURPLE THINK TANK

Session 3

From Awareness to Access - Addressing the Need and Driving Assistive Technology (AT) Adoption



This insightful session brought together experts and leaders working at the intersection of technology, inclusion, and policy :

- Mr. Sumit Chauhan, Head CSR, Mphasis
- Smt. Manmeet Kaur Nanda, Additional Secretary, DEPwD
- Shri. Praveen Kumar, Chairman & Managing Director, ALIMCO
- Dr. Ravinder Singh, Scientist, ICMR

The discussion was moderated by Mr. Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP.

The panel explored the theme “From Awareness to Access: Addressing the Need and Driving AT Adoption”, emphasizing how assistive technology (AT) can play a transformative role in empowering persons with disabilities when both awareness and accessibility are effectively addressed.

Panelists discussed the barriers to AT adoption, including limited information dissemination, affordability challenges, and fragmented delivery systems. They highlighted the need for community-led outreach, accessible information channels, and capacity building at the grassroots level to ensure persons with disabilities can identify and utilize available assistive solutions.

Further, the panel underscored that collaboration among government, industry, and civil society is essential for scaling impact, fostering innovation, and ensuring equitable distribution of assistive technologies.

The session concluded with a shared vision of creating an inclusive ecosystem where awareness seamlessly translates into access, empowering every individual with the tools they need to live independently and with dignity.

Session 4

Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities



At the International Purple Fest 2025, the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), with support from Bajaj Finserv CSR, hosted a powerful session on Barriers to Political Participation for Persons with Disabilities.

The distinguished panel comprised :

- Shri E.T. Basheer, Member of Parliament, Malappuram Lok Sabha Constituency, Kerala
- Shri Subhash Phal Dessai, Minister of Social Welfare, Government of Goa
- Shri Tushar Kelkar, State President, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), Goa
- Prof. Deepak Nathan, Secretary, Disabled Wing of DMK; Assistant Professor, Loyola College
- Ms. Zaruhi Batoyan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Republic of Armenia
- Dr. Aman Preet Kaur, Deputy National Head, Bajaj Finserv CSR

Moderator: Mr. Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP

At the International Purple Fest 2025, the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), with support from Bajaj Finserv CSR, hosted a powerful session on Barriers to Political Participation for Persons with Disabilities. The distinguished panel brought together national and international leaders, including Members of Parliament, ministers, political representatives, academicians, and CSR leaders, with the session moderated by Mr. Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP.

PURPLE THINK TANK

The discussion opened with a critical question: despite being one of India's largest communities, why do persons with disabilities remain severely underrepresented in political and legislative spaces? Panellists observed that while voter registration among persons with disabilities has steadily increased, their presence as candidates, leaders, and elected representatives remains disproportionately low. The dialogue highlighted the urgent need for structural reforms, grassroots inclusion, and enabling political ecosystems to ensure meaningful representation.

Shri Subhash Phal Dessai emphasized that political participation must begin at the grassroots level, advocating for representation in every panchayat and political reservations for persons with disabilities from local to national levels. Shri E.T. Basheer noted that while India has strong legal and international frameworks such as the UNCRPD, their implementation remains weak and inconsistent. Shri Sunil Deodhar highlighted systemic entry barriers within political parties and called for equitable access, infrastructure, and mentorship for aspiring leaders with disabilities.

Offering an international perspective, Ms. Zaruhi Batoyan, MP and former Minister of Social Justice of Armenia, shared her lived experience as a wheelchair user, underscoring that barriers to political participation are strikingly similar across countries. Prof. Deepak Nathan urged persons with disabilities to actively claim political space and engage with the language of politics, while both he and Shri Sunil Deodhar reaffirmed their parties' support for NCPEDP's advocacy efforts. Shri Tushar Kelkar announced the proposed establishment of a dedicated disability wing within BJYM Goa, signalling a significant step toward institutional inclusion.

Representing Bajaj Finserv CSR, Dr. Aman Preet Kaur called for a rights-based, rather than charity-driven, approach to political advocacy, emphasizing the need for authentic representation in decision-making spaces. Audience interactions raised concerns around polling station accessibility and the use of assistive technologies during elections, with panellists stressing effective implementation of Election Commission guidelines and stronger reservation and nomination policies. The session concluded with a collective affirmation that political participation is a fundamental right and that India must move from symbolic inclusion to meaningful representation that truly reflects the diversity of its democracy.

Session 5

The Process of Participation – Making Co-Creation a Habit
Co-curated by Centre for Disability Studies - NALSAR University of Law



- Arman Ali - Executive Director, NCPEDP
- Roma Bhagat - Advocate, Delhi High Court & Founder, Roma Bhagat Associates
- Akshay Jain - Program Manager, NCPEDP
- Smitha Sadasivan - Senior Advisor on Inclusive Health Policy, Disability Rights India Foundation
- Abhishek Kumar - Founder, The Sangyan, Ex - Javed Abidi Fellow
- Nilesh Singit - Distinguished Research Fellow, Centre for Disabilities Studies, NALSAR University of Law
- Afrah Asif -Research Fellow, Centre for Disability Studies

This session focused on embedding co-creation and participatory governance in policymaking to ensure meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities. Panelists from NALSAR, NCPEDP, and allied organisations discussed how disability must be viewed through an intersectional lens, recognising gender, age, and social context.

The discussion highlighted that climate change disproportionately affects persons with disabilities, particularly women and children, and that climate justice is incomplete without disability inclusion. Participants also called for holistic, multi-stakeholder approaches to accessibility, engaging local communities, authorities, and environmental groups.

Examples from inclusive electoral initiatives—such as Braille candidate sheets, ISL interpretation, and provisions for invisible disabilities—illustrated the value of involving persons with disabilities in law-making, implementation, and monitoring. The session concluded with a shared commitment to make co-creation a sustained habit across policy and development spaces.

PURPLE THINK TANK

Session 6

From Policy to Practice: Making NEP 2020's Inclusive Education Vision a Reality

Co-curated by Perkins India



- Smt. Meghana Shetgaonkar, Director, SCERT (State Council of Educational Research and Training), Goa
- Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP
- Arun Poddar, Director, Aspirational Bharat Collaborative
- Dr. Aman Preet Kaur, Deputy National CSR Lead, Bajaj Finserv

This session explored practical ways to translate NEP 2020's inclusive education goals into action. Panelists agreed that inclusive education requires an ecosystem approach addressing early intervention, accessibility, infrastructure, and teacher capacity.

Dr. Aman Preet Kaur emphasized early identification and intervention as essential for empowering children with disabilities. Arun Poddar highlighted the need to overcome physical, environmental, and social barriers that still keep many children out of school.

Arman Ali stressed the importance of accessible transport, barrier-free infrastructure, and Universal Design for Learning to make classrooms truly inclusive. Smt. Meghana Shetgaonkar added that teacher training must be paired with strong infrastructure, with government and CSR partnerships working together to create inclusive learning spaces.

The session concluded that realizing NEP 2020's vision depends on collaboration across sectors to ensure every child can learn, participate, and thrive.

Session 7

Disability and Climate Change – A Deeper Look into Climate Justice

Co-curated by ASTHA at the Purple Think Tank, International Purple Fest 2025



- Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP
- Pratik Aggarwal, Pratik Aggarwal Executive Director at ASTHA
- Karishma Khemlani, Senior Digital Communications Strategist, Asar
- Sujeet Kumar Dongre, Program Director, Centre for Environmental Education
- Abhishek Kumar, Founder, The Sangyan, Ex NCPEDP Javed Abidi Fellow

This session explored the intersection of climate justice and disability inclusion, emphasizing how environmental and humanitarian crises affect persons with disabilities in unique and compounded ways.

The panel featured Sujeet, Arman Ali (NCPEDP), Karishma Khemlani (Asar), Pratik Aggarwal (ASTHA), and Abhishek Kumar (The Sangyan).

Discussions highlighted that climate action and disaster management must be inclusive and data-driven, ensuring that the needs of persons with disabilities are integrated from planning to implementation. Speakers stressed the importance of environmental education that follows the principle “Nothing about us without us,” ensuring accessibility, equity, and participation for all.

Panelists noted that extreme weather, heat stress, and environmental degradation disproportionately affect persons with disabilities- especially children, women, and those with invisible disabilities. Beyond climate events, participants cited the COVID-19 pandemic as a clear example of how disasters magnify exclusion. Many persons with disabilities were left without access to healthcare, assistive devices, or essential information during lockdowns, demonstrating why inclusive preparedness and communication systems are critical in any crisis.

Speakers further emphasized that technological solutions alone are not enough; policies must incorporate lived experiences and social realities. In cities like Delhi, where pollution and rising temperatures strain already limited infrastructure, children with disabilities face compounded challenges—missing school and health support due to climate and urban pressures.

The session concluded that true climate justice is impossible without disability inclusion. Building resilient and equitable communities requires cross-sector collaboration, accessible planning, and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in environmental and disaster governance.

PURPLE THINK TANK

Session 8

Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

Co-curated by Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy





- Manmayi Sharma
- Rahul Bajaj, Senior Associate Fellow, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.
- Soumya Jain, Research Fellow, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.
- Adv. Subhash Chandra Vashishtha - Director, Centre for Accessibility in Built Environment Foundation; Lawyer, Supreme Court of India

The session focused on the persistent gap between accessibility policies and their on-ground implementation. Discussions highlighted how accessibility in government infrastructure projects often remains an afterthought, with inadequate budgeting and weak compliance checks by local authorities. Another key concern raised was the delay in issuing updated accessibility standards and the lack of effective enforcement mechanisms, both of which hinder progress toward creating truly inclusive and barrier-free environments for persons with disabilities.



PURPLE CONFERENCE

PURPLE CONFERENCE



Beyond Barriers, Expanding Horizons for Persons with Disabilities

Beyond Barriers," a landmark Career Guidance Workshop organized by Radio Udaan and MAD Foundation at the International Purple Fest Goa 2025, brought together over 150 persons with disabilities from more than 15 states for a powerful day of career exploration, learning, and mentorship. Designed as a fully accessible and empowering platform, the workshop introduced participants to diverse professional pathways through engaging sessions led by experts in law, civil services, entrepreneurship, corporate accessibility, freelancing, sports, and inclusive finance. The interactive format enabled participants to gain practical insights, connect directly with mentors and role models, and explore opportunities aligned with their aspirations.

During the conference, Santosh Kumar Romta was felicitated on being elected as the President of the World Blind Union by the hands of Subhash Phal Desai, Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, and Devidas Pangam, Advocate General of High Court of Bombay at Goa.



Visions of Power and Possibility : Building Our Future Together

Organised and supported by Rising Flame, a half-day multilingual convening under the International Purple Fest, Goa 2025. The dialogue brought together over 40 women and non-binary persons with disabilities from 11 states and across 10 disability groups for a reflective and empowering closed-door conversation on leadership, justice, and collective futures. Inaugurated by Smt. Ipsita Mitra, Deputy Secretary, DEPwD, Government of India, the convening centred lived experiences and explored key themes such as violence and justice, education, accessibility, employment, and health. Facilitated by Rising Flame's leadership team, the session created a safe, inclusive space for participants to share personal narratives, identify systemic challenges, and articulate visions for equity, dignity, and movement-building. The gathering reaffirmed the power of community-led leadership and marked an important step in strengthening intersectional feminist disability advocacy in India.

InviSabal - The Rural Disability Convention

The InviSabal – Rural Disability Convention was one of the key conferences held under the Purple Fest 2025 conference track, focusing on bringing rural lived-experience into national disability discourse. Organised in collaboration with the Tata Steel Foundation, the conference highlighted the realities of persons with disabilities in rural India and explored systemic gaps, community resilience, and grassroots leadership. Through four thematic panels, it covered lived experiences in rural areas, policy and implementation gaps, creating inclusive rural spaces through universal design, and the role of Panchayati Raj institutions and local governance in enabling empowerment. Senior dignitaries including Shri Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble Minister for the Empowerment of PwDs, and Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for PwDs, attended the event alongside experts, rural leaders, and NGOs from across India. The conference affirmed that understanding disability through a rural lens is essential for ensuring last-mile inclusion and shaping a more equitable future.





Purple Parivaar

Purple Parivaar 2025, led by Sethu in collaboration with COOJ, Owl House, and Buddy Up, created a warm, interactive Family Centred Care Zone at the International Purple Fest. The space offered awareness desks, experiential activities, and engaging mini-workshops that promoted a strengths-based, neurodiversity-affirming approach for families and caregivers of neurodivergent individuals. Through hands-on demonstrations, expressive arts, movement sessions, and practical guidance on wellbeing, inclusion, and future planning, Purple Parivaar fostered meaningful learning, connection, and support. The initiative received enthusiastic participation and appreciation, making it a vibrant and impactful component of the Fest

PURPLE CONFERENCE





Funder Roundtable : Reimagining Inclusive and Intersectional Funding for Disability Rights

The “Funder Roundtable: Reimagining Inclusive and Intersectional Funding for Disability Rights,” was organised by Rising Flame and the Mariwala Health Initiative. The roundtable brought together leading funders, policymakers, and disabled leaders to reimagine philanthropic practices through a rights-based, intersectional, and systemic lens. Facilitated by Raj Mariwala and Nidhi Goyal, the discussions explored global and national gaps in disability funding, the urgency of flexible and long-term support, the need to integrate disability across all funding sectors, and the importance of accessibility as a non-negotiable principle. Speakers included the Honourable Minister Shri Subhash Phal Desai, along with representatives from Tata Steel Foundation, Godrej, The Nudge Institute, Women’s Fund Asia, Tech Mahindra Foundation, and multiple OPD leaders and disabled founders such as Prasad Joshi, Kiran Naik, Swarnalata, Abhishek Muthian, Anand, Shraddha, and Saurab. The convening emphasised community-led decision-making, core funding, systemic change, and the crucial role of funders in advancing disability justice.

Purple Eyeway Dialogue: The Ambassadors Speak

The “Purple Eyeway Dialogue: The Ambassadors Speak” was curated by Score Foundation, a New Delhi–based NGO working with blind and visually impaired persons through its Eyeway initiative. Spread across four days, the conference featured a series of seven panel discussions led by Purple Ambassadors representing diverse disabilities. The dialogues focused on lived experiences, systemic barriers, policy implementation, accessibility gaps, early intervention, inclusive education, healthcare needs, and social attitudes. Ambassadors shared personal challenges along with practical recommendations on awareness, accessibility, consistent policies, rehabilitation, digital inclusion, assistive support, and dignity in public services. The conference served as a powerful platform for amplifying first hand voices and highlighting priority issues across the disability spectrum.





Inclusive and Accessibility Rights

The Two-Day RCI-Recognized International CRE on Sign Language Interpreters Training, held on 7th and 8th October 2025 themed “Inclusive and Accessibility Rights,” was organized by the Indian Sign Language Interpreters Association (ISLIA) in collaboration with the Government of Goa during the International Purple Fest 2025 at Panaji, Goa.

The programme brought together over 100 sign language interpreters, educators, and disability sector experts, and featured national and international speakers who highlighted the critical role of interpreters in ensuring accessible education, public services, and inclusive communication for the Deaf community. Discussions focused on professional recognition, interpreter training, mental well-being, bilingual education, intersectionality, and global best practices.

The CRE concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthening interpreter capacity, policy support, and accessibility rights, reinforcing the vision of inclusion championed by the International Purple Fest.



Media Sensitization Workshop on Disability - Inclusive Reporting

The workshop was organised by Rising Flame in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Government of India), the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa, the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Government of Goa), UN in India, and UN Women. The workshop brought together 50 journalists and media professionals to strengthen inclusive and intersectional reporting on disability. Led by Nidhi Goyal and Srinidhi Raghavan of Rising Flame, the sessions explored language, ethics, and rights-based storytelling. A special panel curated by UN Women featured prominent speakers including Uzmi Athar (PTI), Parvinder Singh (World Food Programme India), Pooja Pande (Writer; former Co-CEO, Chambal Media), and Bhanupriya Rao (Founder, BehanBox), who discussed the need to integrate disability across all beats and challenge stereotypical narratives. The concluding interaction included distinguished leaders such as UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Shombi Sharp, Shri Subhash Phal Desai, Ms. Richa Shanker, and Shri Taha Haaziq, who emphasised the media's role in promoting dignity, inclusion, and authentic representation of persons with disabilities.

Lead Beyond Limits: Disability and the New World of Work

Lead Beyond Limits: Disability and the New World of Work". This day-long convention convened over 200 participants from more than five countries to deliberate on emerging opportunities, barriers, and innovations shaping the future of work for persons with disabilities. The inaugural session featured distinguished speakers including Ms. Nidhi Goyal (Rising Flame), Ms. Pulakita Mayekar (Godrej DEI Lab), Shri Pravimal Abhishek (Goa Industrial Development Corporation), Mr. Shombi Sharp (UN Resident Coordinator, India), and Shri Rajesh Aggarwal (Secretary, DEPwD, Government of India). The conference addressed key themes such as inclusive workplace policies, accessibility in employment, the role of artificial intelligence in enabling participation, and the advancement of disability-led entrepreneurship. Notable speakers across the sessions represented institutions such as Meta India, AssisTech Foundation, XRCVC, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group, v-shesh, UN ESCAP, and the Government of Qatar. The event also hosted a fireside conversation with entrepreneur Ms. Surashree Rahane, facilitated by Mr. Nipun Malhotra, followed by a Pitch Fest showcasing eight disability-led ventures evaluated by an international jury. The convention served as an important platform for strengthening dialogue, promoting best practices, and reinforcing the commitment to inclusive economic growth and leadership by persons with disabilities.

Global Inclusive Teachers' Summit (GITS)

Held from 10–12 October 2025 the Global Inclusive Teachers' Summit (GITS) brought together educators, policymakers, researchers, and disability advocates from India and across the globe to bridge the gap between inclusive education policies and classroom practice.

Organized by Brotherhood and Global Inclusive Education Network in collaboration with UNESCO, NCERT, TISS, and Ek Kadam Aur Foundation, GITS featured keynote addresses, panel discussions, and interactive sessions led by eminent experts from India, Canada, Malaysia, the United States, Nepal, and other countries. The discussions explored critical themes such as Universal Design for Learning (UDL), assistive technologies, teacher empowerment, curriculum reform under NEP 2020 and NCF 2023, digital inclusion, leadership, and compassionate education. The Summit highlighted innovative global practices, including inclusive digital textbooks, community-led education models, and structured transition frameworks for learners with disabilities. A strong consensus emerged on the need for teacher capacity building, mindset transformation, and localized implementation strategies to translate progressive policies into meaningful learning experiences.

GITS reaffirmed the collective global commitment to the vision of "Education for All, School for All, and Classroom for All," positioning teachers as the cornerstone of inclusive and equitable education systems.



Purple Charcha Conference

At the International Purple Fest Goa 2025, the American India Foundation (AIF) convened Purple Charcha on 10 October 2025 as a high-impact platform to advance India's disability inclusion dialogue. Anchored in the Fest's theme "Universal Design and Inclusive Thinking," the forum fostered a solutions-oriented conversation on building inclusive futures through collaboration between government, corporates, and civil society.

The dialogue brought together senior policymakers, corporate leaders, and inclusion practitioners to position universal design and accessibility as governance and business imperatives. Key discussions focused on inclusive employment, accessible workplaces, digital inclusion, and scalable skilling models for persons with disabilities.

Purple Charcha also witnessed the signing of two significant MoUs—between AIF and the Government of Goa to advance inclusive employment and accessibility, and with the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) to deliver Indian Sign Language training for corporate professionals—marking a strong commitment toward systemic and sustainable inclusion.





Purple Economy Dialogues

Held on 11 October 2025 at the International Purple Fest, the Purple Economy Dialogues, hosted by EnAble India and the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa, marked a decisive shift from awareness to action. With participation from over 160 leaders across government, industry, global institutions, and civil society, the dialogue positioned disability inclusion as an economic strategy, not a welfare agenda.

UN India highlighted the vast scale of the Purple Economy 1.3 billion people globally with a USD 13 trillion spending power, and an estimated USD 250 billion opportunity for India calling for a “purple tint in every policy and product.” The dialogue featured concrete commitments, including Union Bank of India’s national-scale accessible banking innovations and a proposal for India’s first “Purple Branch,” and GIDC’s announcement of a Purple Industrial Cluster, targeting 5–10 disability-led units by the next Purple Fest.

Global perspectives from the All-Russia Association for the Blind reinforced that inclusion must function as a system, not a sentiment, while industry leaders emphasized Goa’s potential to emerge as India’s prototype for inclusive industry and assistive-technology innovation—transforming inclusion into growth, dignity, and shared prosperity.

Purple Power School Engagement

The Purple Power School Seminar, held on 11th October 2025 organised by Sethu. The seminar brought together school heads, teachers, special educators, NGOs, and academicians to strengthen inclusive education in line with NEP 2020. Sessions focused on understanding neurodiversity, practical classroom strategies, and policy-aligned approaches such as PRASHAST 2.0 and Universal Design for Learning. Schools from Goa shared successful inclusion models, demonstrating how supportive environments can transform learner outcomes. A group activity helped participants identify key needs in policy, curriculum, teaching practices, teacher support, and infrastructure. The seminar provided a meaningful platform to build shared vision and actionable steps toward truly inclusive schools across the state.

All India State Commissioners Meet

The All India State Commissioners' Meet was convened on 9th and 10th October 2025 curated by Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India was a significant highlight of the International Purple Fest. The two-day consultative session, held at Taj Vivanta, brought together 20 State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities from across the country to deliberate on strengthening disability rights, policy implementation, and inter-state collaboration.

The meet was presided over by Dr. Virendra Kumar, Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt of India and Shri Rajesh Agarwal, IAS, Secretary, Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. The platform fostered meaningful dialogue, exchange of best practices, and a shared commitment towards advancing accessibility, inclusion, and empowerment for persons with disabilities across India



Leadership and Intersectionality in Disability Rights

Shaping a Universally Designed Future

Organised by the Bayberry Inc, California (USA) ON 10th Oct 2025 this framework highlighted the importance of inclusive leadership and the intersection of diverse identities within the disability rights movement. Advocating for a universally designed future where policies, environments, and systems are accessible to all, recognizing the unique experiences of individuals at the intersection of disability, gender, race, and other identities.

COAT- Conversation on Assistive Technology State as an Enabler :

How to Scale AT to Empower Every PwD Across the 3Ls (Learning, Livelihood and Living)

A pioneering national platform, held on 10th Oct 2025 by AssisTech Foundation (ATF) in partnership with Bajaj Finserv, envisioned to catalyze structured dialogue, foster collaboration, and drive systemic action within India's Assistive Technology (AT) ecosystem. This high-impact, closed-door roundtable brought together government leaders, disability commissioners, innovators, corporates, and persons with disabilities to exchange insights, shape policies, and accelerate AT adoption across India.



Legal Rights and Empowerment of Persons with Disability

The Workshop on "Legal Rights and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities" was held on 11th October 2025 at the High Court of Bombay at Goa. Organised by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Goa, in association with the Goa State Legal Services Authority, the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, and the Goa High Court Bar Association, and curated by Mission Accessibility.

The session featured addresses by Hon'ble Justice Valmiki Menezes and a keynote address by Hon'ble Justice Abhay S. Oka on the theme of legal rights and empowerment. An interactive Q&A and the Mission Accessibility Annual Awards 2025 were key highlights. The workshop reaffirmed the commitment of the judiciary and legal fraternity towards strengthening access to justice and safeguarding the rights of persons with disabilities

Architect Conference

The Architects' Conference, "Beyond Accessibility: The Power of Universal Design," was held on 11th October 2025. Organised by the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and curated by the Indian Institute of Interior Designers Goa centre the session brought together architects, policymakers, and users to promote inclusive design practices.

Featuring insights from Dr. Kavita Murugkar, Ms. Zaruhi Batoyan, Ms. Sophia Moermond, and Hon'ble Minister Shri Subhash Phaldessai, along with an engaging panel moderated by Ar. Anup Gadgil, the conference encouraged dialogue on integrating universal design into mainstream architecture. The event reinforced the collective commitment to creating built environments that uphold accessibility, dignity, and inclusion for all.





Towards Accessible India : CII Roundtable on Inclusive Tourism, Hospitality & Sports

As a precursor to the International Purple Fest Goa 2025, the Confederation of Indian Industry – India Business and Disability Network (IBDN), in collaboration with Svayam, hosted a consultative roundtable on 8 October 2025 at the Entertainment Society of Goa in Goa.

The discussion brought together leaders from government, industry, and advocacy groups to explore pathways for building inclusive tourism, hospitality, and sports ecosystems. Conversations focused on creating accessible travel experiences and expanding opportunities in adventure activities such as paragliding and scuba diving for persons with disabilities.

Addressing the gathering, Shri. Subhash Phal Desai, Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities emphasized that the Purple Fest is not just an event but a movement to promote dignity, visibility, and pride for persons with disabilities. Taha Haaziq highlighted the diverse initiatives of the festival, while Sminu Jindal underlined that accessibility is not merely a social responsibility but also an economic priority, capable of unlocking employment and growth through inclusive tourism.

The roundtable concluded with a shared commitment from stakeholders to strengthen awareness, improve accessible infrastructure, and advance Goa's vision of becoming a truly inclusive destination for all.

PURPLE CONFERENCE

Purple Pragati - Corporate Seminar

Purple Pragati – The Corporate Conference, organised by Sethu driven by Nishtha Vigyan Pvt. Ltd. with support from Beyond Labels™, focused on building a practical and scalable Goa Model of Inclusion for employment of Persons with Disabilities. The conference brought together corporates, policymakers, NGOs, parents, and PwDs to share best practices, lived experiences, and successful inclusion models from organisations such as IHCL, St. Regis, EPL, Google, Microsoft, and Sanjay Centre. Key discussions highlighted aligning DEI policies with government frameworks, using technology for accessibility, and recognising neurodiversity as a workplace strength. The event resulted in strong commitments to create structured, data-driven employment pathways for PwDs, supported by ongoing initiatives like the Neurodiversity in Hospitality Workshop and The Skill Lens Solution. Purple Pragati reinforced that true inclusion drives innovation, opportunity, and equitable growth for all.





Purple Cruise - Curtain Raiser

The Purple Cruise – Curtain Raiser marked a vibrant beginning celebrating accessibility, innovation, and inclusion against the scenic waters of Panaji. Curated by the AssisTech Foundation, the sunset cruise brought together policymakers, innovators, and changemakers to highlight the transformative role of assistive technology.

The event was held in the presence of Shri. Subhash Phal Desai, Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, and Prateek Madhav, CEO & Co-Founder of AssisTech Foundation, along with State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities from across the country.

Assistive technology startups showcased innovative solutions designed to enhance independence and accessibility for persons with disabilities. The evening concluded with a networking dinner, fostering collaboration and dialogue toward building a more inclusive future.



PURPLE EXPERIENCE ZONE

PURPLE EXPERIENCE ZONE



The Classroom of Possibilities

The Inclusive Education Zone brought accessibility to life through tactile learning tools, Braille panels, tactile maps, and adaptive resources like the Saksharta Kit and Bookshare Library. Visitors experienced lessons through raised textures and ISL-enabled QR codes — transforming the idea of inclusive classrooms into something visible, touchable, and real.

Sugamya Bharat Pavilion - Where Technology Spoke Accessibility

This technology-driven zone showcased AI-powered tools such as Divya AI and ADITI AI, alongside the Shravan Audio Library and Sugamya Bharat App. Designed as a modern digital space, it demonstrated how innovation and governance are working together to make accessibility practical, responsive, and empowering.

PURPLE EXPERIENCE ZONE



Activities of Daily Living (ADL) Zone - A Home Reimagined

The ADL Zone recreated accessible kitchens, workspaces, and bedrooms with dual-height counters, voice-enabled switches, and adaptive furniture. It highlighted how thoughtful design in everyday spaces can foster independence, dignity, and self-reliance.

Neurodiversity & Purple Pariwaar Zone

This vibrant space celebrated Autism, ADHD, and Dyslexia as unique strengths. Interactive elements like the “My Superpower” floor graphic and Buddy Up games encouraged empathy, participation, and pride reinforcing that inclusion begins with acceptance and understanding.

PURPLE EXPERIENCE ZONE



Interactive Panel Court - The Heart of Dialogue

An open, participatory space featuring “I Am” and “I Promise” walls, tactile disability icons, and ISL learning panels. Visitors actively contributed messages, pledges, and reflections — turning awareness into shared dialogue and collective expression.

Sensory Experience Room - The Room that Whispered Calm

Designed as a sanctuary, the Sensory Room offered both low- and high-stimulation environments. Through controlled lighting, textures, and sound, it allowed visitors to understand sensory sensitivity and experience accessibility through comfort and calm.



Access for All & Purple Kaleidoscope Zone - The Art of Inclusion

Blending creativity with awareness, this zone displayed artwork by neurodiverse students alongside panels on disability etiquette and digital accessibility. With dual-height easels and tactile features, it ensured universal participation while showcasing art as a bridge to empathy.

PURPLE EXPERIENCE ZONE







Photo Booth Avenue - The Street of Joy

Fully accessible and festive, this avenue featured installations like the Butterfly Arch and Purple Parivaar booth. With ramps and tactile markers ensuring participation for all, it celebrated visibility, pride, and togetherness concluding the Experience Zones on a joyful note.



PURPLE SPECTRUM



The Good Talk Factory – Purple Solvathon

At the International Purple Fest Goa 2025, The Good Talk Factory curated the Purple Solvathon, a creative platform for inclusive innovation. 46 students across 10 teams from Goa, Pune, Hyderabad, and Bhimavaram came together to solve real accessibility challenges. The event turned ideas into empathy-driven solutions, blending design with purpose. It stood as a celebration of collaboration, creativity, and the power of youth to reimagine inclusion.

Zine Making Workshop: Stories Beyond the Visible

The Zine-Making Workshop at the International Purple Fest 2025, facilitated by Believe in the Invisible, created a powerful and inclusive space for persons with disabilities and chronic illnesses to express their lived experiences through creative storytelling. Conducted over two days in six small-group sessions, the workshop engaged over 400 participants, who explored themes of identity, care, stigma, resilience, and joy through writing, collage, drawing, and digital formats.

Designed with universal accessibility at its core, the workshop offered multiple modes of expression, accessible materials, sign language interpretation, and trained on-ground support. The resulting zines, created by disabled storytellers themselves, contributed to a growing archive of lived disability narratives, reinforcing the role of art as a tool for inclusion, advocacy, and community-building at Purple Fest 2025.

International Purple WE CARE Film Festival 2025

The International Purple WE CARE Film Festival 2025, held from 9–12 October 2025 at INOX, Goa, formed an integral part of the International Purple Fest, Goa. Now in its 21st edition, the festival continued its legacy as a global platform that uses cinema to spotlight the lives, aspirations, challenges, and achievements of persons with disabilities, promoting inclusion, accessibility, and equality through powerful storytelling.

The festival brought together filmmakers, disability advocates, policymakers, and audiences from India and across the world. Films spanning short, documentary, and feature formats explored themes such as inclusive education, independent living, mental health, assistive technologies, sports, arts, and disability-led entrepreneurship. A special highlight was the screening of “Sitaare Zameen Par”, featuring nine actors with disabilities, followed by an engaging interaction with the cast, reinforcing the importance of authentic representation in cinema.

Emphasising accessible filmmaking, the festival encouraged subtitles and audio descriptions, while fostering collaboration between UN agencies, civil society organisations, and creative professionals. The concluding award ceremony recognised outstanding contributions to disability-inclusive cinema, reaffirming the festival’s role in advancing advocacy, representation, and social change through film.



GIEN–Purple Innovators Awards 2025–26

The GIEN–Purple Innovators Awards 2025–26 were conferred from 10th to 12th October 2025 to recognise educators and institutions demonstrating excellence and innovation in the field of inclusive education. A total of fifteen awards were presented across five regions of India—North, South, East, West, and North-East—under the categories of Inclusive Teacher Excellence, Inclusive School Excellence, and Special School Excellence.

The awards highlighted impactful practices such as inclusive pedagogy, learner-centric teaching models, and the effective use of assistive technologies to support children with disabilities. The programme witnessed the participation of national and international dignitaries, educators, researchers, policy experts, and disability rights advocates, reaffirming a collective commitment to advancing equitable, accessible, and quality education for all, in alignment with SDG 4 and national disability frameworks.



DEIC – Capacity Building and Early Intervention Initiatives

The District Early Intervention Centres (DEIC), North Goa and South Goa, in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services (DHS), played a significant role in strengthening early intervention, parental guidance, and professional capacity building through a series of focused workshops conducted between 9th and 12th October 2025 at the ESG Complex, Panaji. These sessions were designed to address developmental, behavioural, emotional, and visual challenges across different age groups, with a strong emphasis on evidence-based practices and interdisciplinary learning.

Through three specialised workshop modules, DEIC reached a wide cross-section of parents, professionals, and neurodivergent individuals, fostering informed caregiving, improved therapeutic approaches, and inclusive developmental support.





Workshop 1 :

Behaviour and Communication in Young Children (2–7 Years)

Resource Persons : UMMEED Child Development Centre, Mumbai

Conducted across four sessions, this workshop supported parents in understanding early communication development, attention building, and behaviour management. Approximately 35–40 parents participated, engaging in interactive discussions that helped them better interpret their children's behaviours and access practical strategies tailored to individual developmental needs.

Workshop 2 :

Emotional Regulation and Adolescence in Neurodivergent Children (8–16 Years)

Resource Persons : Action for Autism (AFA), New Delhi

This workshop series, held over four sessions, focused on emotional awareness, managing school-related challenges, addressing bullying, navigating adolescence, and supporting psychosocial development. With 30–35 parent participants, the sessions offered valuable insights into supporting neurodivergent children beyond early intervention, particularly during transitional and adolescent phases.

Workshop 3 :

Navigating Cortical Visual Impairment – From Diagnosis to Rehabilitation

Resource Persons : Unit of Hope, St. John's Medical College and Hospital, Bengaluru

Held over two days (11th–12th October 2025), this advanced workshop was attended by 75 rehabilitation professionals from diverse disciplines. Through functional assessments, hands-on simulations, and case-based learning, participants gained practical skills to identify and manage CVI using interdisciplinary approaches and accessible intervention strategies.







PURPLE STREET

PURPLE STREET

The Purple Street was one of the most vibrant and energetic tracks of the International Purple Fest Goa 2025 which was curated by two special educators from Goa, Ms Dhanashree Shirgaonkar and Ms Anuja Parab. The entire stretch came alive with colour, creativity, and celebration as more than 80 stalls were set up by NGOs and special schools across Goa, alongside artisans from different parts of the country who showcased their exceptional skills and craftsmanship. Visitors were treated to live workstations where they could witness the making of pottery, handloom weaving, Madhubani painting, and traditional Goan handicrafts, among others—each stall offering a glimpse into India's diverse cultural and artistic heritage.

Adding to the festive spirit were over 500 live performances by students from various special schools, who took the stage across the four days of the fest. Their energy, confidence, and enthusiasm filled the air with joy and inspiration, making Purple Street a true celebration of talent, inclusion, and creativity in its most authentic form.







Purple Street, stood out as one of the dynamic and interactive tracks of the International Purple Fest Goa 2025. Designed as a walk-through inclusive street experience, it featured 38 live workstations curated by various organisations, showcasing a rich array of skills from clay modelling, diya painting, embroidery, crochet, weaving, cloth and bag making, to medicinal powder preparation and a variety of experiential craft activities. Alongside these workstations, visitors enjoyed a vibrant lineup of 90+ live performances, including folk dance, group dance, solo singing, storytelling sessions, fashion shows, and Jugalbandi acts, all celebrating diversity and artistic expression. The street also hosted live artisans, such as traditional and contemporary painters and Madhubani artists, who demonstrated their craft in real time. Purple Street blended accessibility, creativity, and cultural immersion, creating an inclusive environment that highlighted the exceptional talents of Persons with Disabilities and fostered meaningful community engagement.

PURPLE STREET











PURPLE KALIEDOSCOPE





Inclusive Art Workshops

The Inclusive Art Workshops conducted under Purple Kaleidoscope at the International Purple Fest 2025 created an immersive and empowering space for creative expression and inclusion. Curated by Access For ALL under the guidance of Shri Siddhant Shah and Shri Rohan Marathe, in collaboration with Rupal Madam from Gujarati Samaj School (GSSA), the workshops brought together over 477 students from special schools and resource rooms across Goa. Each session integrated accessibility, creativity, and collaboration, where children explored diverse mediums—painting, tactile art, sensory textures, and collaborative canvases—guided by trained facilitators and artists with disabilities. The workshops aimed to build empathy, motor coordination, and communication skills through the language of art. Participants not only discovered joy in creation but also gained confidence and a sense of belonging in a larger inclusive community. The space was designed to be sensory-friendly, with adaptive tools and supportive volunteers ensuring participation from children with varied disabilities—visual, hearing, intellectual, and neurodiverse. Beyond skill-building, these sessions became moments of celebration, laughter, and shared discovery, embodying the true spirit of the Purple Fest—that creativity knows no boundaries and inclusion begins when everyone is invited to the same canvas.

PURPLE KALIEDOSCOPE

Exhibition of Artworks by Artists with Disabilities

The Purple Kaleidoscope Art Gallery showcased an inspiring exhibition of artworks by artists with disabilities from across India, celebrating diversity, resilience, and creativity. Curated by Access For ALL under the leadership of Shri Siddhant Shah and Shri Rohan Marathe, the exhibit featured a range of artistic expressions—from tactile and braille-inclusive artworks to vibrant visual narratives reflecting personal journeys, emotions, and social commentary. Over 570 visitors explored the gallery during the festival, engaging with accessible labels in Braille and large print, as well as QR codes linked to Indian Sign Language (ISL) videos for inclusive communication. The exhibition created an environment where art could be experienced through multiple senses, encouraging visitors to touch, feel, and interpret the works beyond the visual. Artists represented diverse regions and disabilities, yet their creativity unified the space into a powerful narrative of ability and self-expression. The exhibit not only gave visibility to the talents of artists with disabilities but also fostered awareness about the importance of accessible cultural spaces. It became a platform for dialogue, empathy, and appreciation—proving that when accessibility meets artistry, every individual's story becomes a masterpiece.



Access For ALL Mela : A Space for Sensitization

The Access For ALL Mela at the International Purple Fest 2025 emerged as one of the most engaging public attractions, drawing over 900 visitors into an experiential journey of inclusion and awareness. Conceptualized by Access For ALL under Shri Siddhant Shah and Shri Rohan Marathe, the Mela offered a series of hands-on sensitization activities designed to help participants experience the world through diverse perspectives. The highlight stations included the Blindfold Zone—where visitors created art or navigated objects without sight to understand visual impairment—and the Neuro Maze, a challenge simulating neurodiverse experiences and cognitive overload. Other interactive booths focused on sign language, tactile art, and empathy-building games. The space was buzzing with curiosity, laughter, and meaningful conversations as individuals, families, educators, and students engaged deeply with the theme of inclusion. Facilitators guided reflections after each activity, turning experiences into insights about accessibility and social empathy. The Mela served not just as a fair, but as a transformative learning hub—helping bridge gaps between disabled and non-disabled communities through creativity, dialogue, and play. It perfectly captured the Purple Fest spirit of participation, learning, and joy beyond barriers.

Live Demonstrations by Artists with Disabilities

One of the most engaging highlights of Purple Kaleidoscope was the Live Demonstration Zone, where artists with disabilities showcased their unique creative processes in real time. Curated by Access For ALL under Shri Siddhant Shah and Shri Rohan Marathe, this interactive segment offered visitors a rare opportunity to witness the transformative power of art as an act of resilience, talent, and inclusion. Artists from diverse disability backgrounds—including visual, locomotor, and neurodiverse conditions—demonstrated techniques such as mouth and foot painting, tactile texturing, and adaptive brushwork. The live sessions drew immense curiosity and admiration from audiences, who engaged directly with the artists to understand their methods and experiences. This format allowed the public to see beyond disability and recognize the immense creativity, discipline, and innovation involved in each artwork. It also helped inspire children, teachers, and general visitors to rethink notions of ability and capability. The live demonstrations became a dynamic exchange of skill and empathy, where barriers dissolved through shared appreciation. By centering artists as role models rather than subjects of sympathy, this initiative embodied Access For ALL's philosophy—celebrating ability, accessibility, and artistry in equal measure.



PURPLE SPORTS

1st Purple Boccia Senior National Federation Cup 2025

Held from 8th–12th October 2025 at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Goa, the 1st Purple Boccia Senior National Federation Cup 2025 marked a significant step in advancing Boccia, a Paralympic sport for athletes with severe physical disabilities.

Organized by the Boccia Sports Federation of India (BSFI), the championship brought together 50 senior athletes from 19 States and Union Territories, competing across BC1–BC4 categories in individual, pair, and team events. Conducted as per World Boccia standards, the tournament showcased exceptional skill, strategy, and determination.

Beyond competition, the event strengthened the national Boccia ecosystem and served as a key platform for talent identification, reinforcing Goa's commitment to inclusive sports and excellence.







Sports Activities by Special Olympic Bharat

Special Olympics Bharat Goa curated and conducted inclusive sports activities that celebrated ability, unity, and athletic excellence from the 9th to 12th October 2025. As part of this prestigious festival, Special Olympics Bharat organized competitive events in Basketball, Badminton, and Table Tennis, reinforcing its commitment to promoting inclusion through sport.

Athletes from six States and Union Territories Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar, Puducherry, and Chandigarh participated in the sports activities. Competitions were conducted across Traditional and Unified formats, with participation from both male and female athletes. Unified events, featuring athletes with and without intellectual disabilities competing together, highlighted teamwork, mutual respect, and shared achievement.

The sports events were hosted at accessible and athlete-friendly venues in Panjim. Basketball matches were conducted in the 5x5 team format at Sharada Mandir School, Miramar, while Badminton and Table Tennis events, including Singles, Doubles, and Unified Doubles, were held at the Multipurpose Indoor Stadium, Campal. The close proximity of venues to the athletes' accommodation at the Youth Hostel, Miramar ensured convenience and smooth coordination throughout the event.

The sports segment of the International Purple Fest commenced with a vibrant Opening Ceremony, featuring a March Past and the Lighting of the Torch symbolizing unity, determination, and the spirit of Special Olympics. The ceremony was graced by dignitaries including Mr. Rohit Monserrate, Mayor of the Corporation of the City of Panaji, and Mr. Manoj Patil, President of the Goa Badminton Association, along with Mr. Jairam Kholkar, a longstanding benefactor of Special Olympics Goa.

Over four days of spirited competition, athletes displayed exceptional talent, determination, and sportsmanship. Round-robin basketball matches and Unified Doubles events in Badminton and Table Tennis stood out as strong examples of inclusion in action. The sports activities also drew enthusiastic support from volunteers, students, and members of the public, contributing to a vibrant and encouraging atmosphere.

The sports competitions concluded with a dignified Closing Ceremony held on October 11th, 2025, at the Indoor Stadium, Campal, Panjim. Distinguished guests including Shri Sadanand Shet Tanavade, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Goa; Mr. Subhash Phaldessai, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Government of Goa; Mr. Guruprasad Pawaskar, Disability Commissioner, Government of Goa; Dr. (Mrs.) Mallika Nadda, President, Special Olympics Bharat; Mrs. Chitra Shah, Vice President, Special Olympics Bharat; and Ms. Ragini Sridharan, Director of Social Welfare, Puducherry, joined athletes and organizers in celebrating achievements and reaffirming the mission of inclusion.



Women's Blind Cricket Tournament

The Women's Blind Cricket Tournament was organised by the Blind Cricket Association Goa, creating a national-level platform for blind women cricketers to compete, excel, and be celebrated. Conducted over two days on October 10th and 11th, 2025, the tournament reinforced the festival's commitment to inclusive sport and women's empowerment.

A total of 96 women athletes participated, with six inter-state teams competing in a Senior Women Inter-State format. The teams were divided into two groups: Group A comprising Goa, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat, and Group B comprising Rajasthan, Kerala, and Maharashtra.

Following competitive league matches, Gujarat emerged as the winner of Group A, while Rajasthan topped Group B. The final match saw Rajasthan defeat Gujarat, securing the championship title of the Women's Blind Cricket Tournament.

Marked by high levels of skill, determination, and sportsmanship, the tournament stood as a strong expression of inclusive sporting excellence. It played a meaningful role in advancing the vision of IPFG 2025, celebrating ability, resilience, and opportunity for women with visual impairments.

PURPLE SPORTS

I Run Inclusion Marathon

Organised by Adventures Beyond Barriers Foundation (ABBF)

International Purple Fest 2025 | Goa | October 9–12, 2025

The I Run Inclusion Marathon, organised by the Adventures Beyond Barriers Foundation (ABBF), brought together persons with and without disabilities to run side by side. Rooted in ABBF's vision of creating an inclusive world through adventure and sport, the run celebrated accessibility, equality, and shared achievement.

Participants took part in 3 km, 5 km, and 7 km runs, with staggered start times ensuring safety and accessibility. The Inclusion Run saw participation from 1,732 runners, including 395 persons with disabilities, 1,337 persons without disabilities, along with volunteers and ABBF staff. Runners represented 21 different disabilities, making the event a vivid expression of inclusive thinking in action.

More than a race, the I Run Inclusion Marathon became a space of joy, visibility, and belonging where first-time runners crossed the finish line with pride, families felt welcomed, and differences dissolved into shared purpose. It stood as a living reminder that when everyone runs together, inclusion moves forward.





National Football Championship of the Deaf

The National Football Championship of the Deaf was successfully held in Goa during the International Purple Fest 2025, in collaboration with the All India Sports Council of the Deaf and the Goa Sports Council of the Deaf (GSCD). The championship brought together 12 teams representing 11 States and one team from Delhi, reflecting the growing strength and reach of deaf sports in India.

The tournament concluded with Kerala emerging as Champions, Goa securing the position of 1st Runner-Up, and Karnataka finishing as 2nd Runner-Up.

The championship marked a historic milestone for Goa, which hosted the National Deaf Football Championship after a gap of 28 years, the last being in 1997. Adding to the significance, Team Goa delivered an outstanding performance on home ground, earning the 1st Runner-Up position along with a trophy and cash prize—a moment of pride for the state and the deaf sporting community.







Wheelchair Basketball Championship

October 9–12, 2025

The Wheelchair Basketball Championship for Men was organized during the International Purple Fest 2025, reflecting the festival's commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and para sports. The championship was conducted by the Wheelchair Basketball Federation of India (WBFI) in collaboration with the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa.

Four state teams Karnataka, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, and Pondicherry participated in the championship, which followed a round-robin format, allowing each team to compete against all others. After a series of competitive matches, Karnataka secured first place, followed by Delhi in second position, Tamil Nadu in third, and Pondicherry in fourth.

The matches were marked by high levels of skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship, and received enthusiastic support from local communities, dignitaries, and festival attendees. In addition to the on-court action, cultural evenings and recreational activities added vibrancy to the overall experience, encouraging interaction and camaraderie among participants.

The Wheelchair Basketball Championship contributed meaningfully to the inclusive sporting landscape of the International Purple Fest 2025, celebrating athletic excellence and participation in an accessible and supportive environment.



PURPLE RAIN

PURPLE RAIN





The evenings of the International Purple Fest – Goa 2025 came alive under the spell of Purple Rain a captivating series of performances that illuminated the main stage with talent, passion, and inclusivity. Artists with and without disabilities shared the spotlight, creating moments of pure magic through music, dance, and theatre. Each performance celebrated the spirit of unity and expression, proving that art knows no boundaries. The nights truly shimmered with energy, emotion, and the vibrant rhythm of inclusion that defined the heart of the fest.

PURPLE RAIN

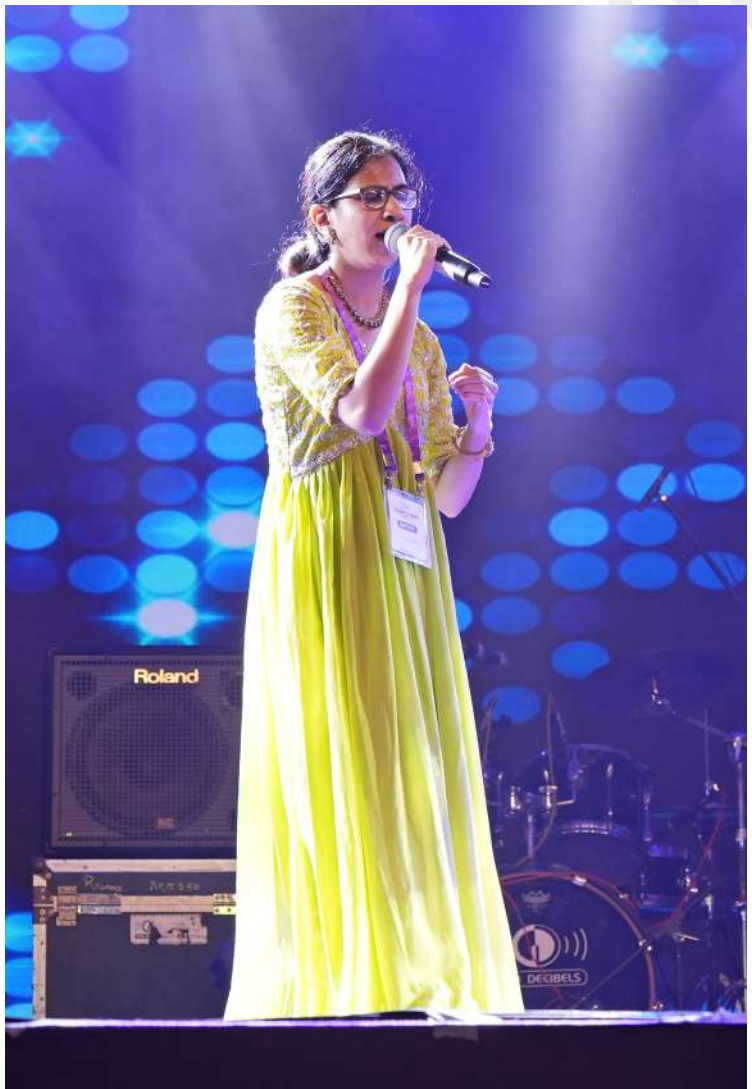
Performances by Students of Special Schools

Each day at the International Purple Fest Goa 2025 began and ended with joy, rhythm, and boundless enthusiasm as students from various special schools across Goa took to the stage with their dance performances. Trained and choreographed by the Victory Arts Foundation, a team from Shiamak Davar's institute, the children showcased their incredible talent, confidence, and spirit. Their performances, spread across all four days of the fest, were a true celebration of inclusion and creativity filling the atmosphere with smiles, applause, and unforgettable energy.



Mayuri Atre

A performance that radiated joy, rhythm, and inclusion, Mayuri Atre, a singer with visual impairment from Pune, captivated the audience with her soulful voice. A top 7 finalist of Sur Nava Dhyas Nava (Colors Marathi, 2022) and a participant of Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Little Champs (Zee Marathi, 2008), her performance at the International Purple Fest Goa 2025 was a true celebration of talent and spirit.





We are One

We Are One , an award-winning wheelchair dance group founded by artists with disabilities, delivered a wonderful performance at Purple Fest. Through synchronized choreography and expressive movement, they transformed wheels into instruments of art, challenging perceptions and redefining dance. Their performance was a powerful celebration of inclusion, resilience, and the universal language of creativity.



Eastern Brook Band

Eastern Brook Band from Meghalaya, a talented ensemble of visually impaired musicians, delivered a captivating performance at Purple Fest. Blending soulful melodies with vibrant rhythms, the band showcased exceptional musical skill and stage presence. Their performance resonated deeply with the audience, reflecting passion, harmony, and artistic excellence. More than just music, Eastern Brook's presence on stage was a celebration of ability, confidence, and the transformative power of inclusion.

Day 1

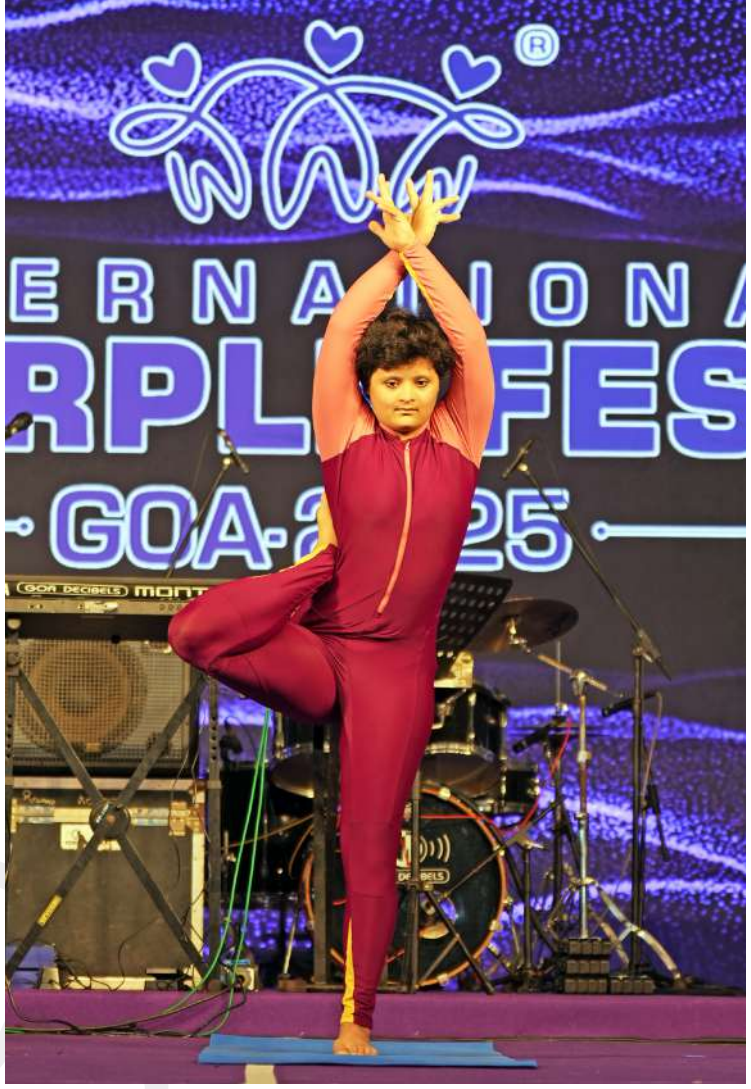
PURPLE RAIN

Palak Muchal and Palash Muchal

A captivating performance by Palak and Palash Muchhal, celebrated for their musical talent and soulful renditions. Their performance at the International Purple Fest Goa 2025 added melody and vibrancy to the fest, delighting audiences and showcasing the power of music in connecting hearts and celebrating inclusion.







Anvi Jhanjharia

An awe-inspiring performance by Anvi Jhanjharia, affectionately known as the “Rubber Girl of India”. A young yoga champion from Surat, Gujarat, Anvi has overcome Down syndrome, Hirschsprung’s disease, and a congenital heart defect to win over 51 medals in yoga, mastering more than 200 asanas. Her performance at the International Purple Fest Goa 2025 was truly unforgettable.



Vishwas Vk

Vishwas K S from Bengaluru delivered a wonderful and inspiring dance performance at Purple Fest. A national-level swimming champion who lost both his hands in an accident at the age of ten, he has won 17 medals for India and excelled in martial arts and dance. His performance reflected resilience, passion, and extraordinary determination, leaving the audience deeply inspired.

PURPLE RAIN

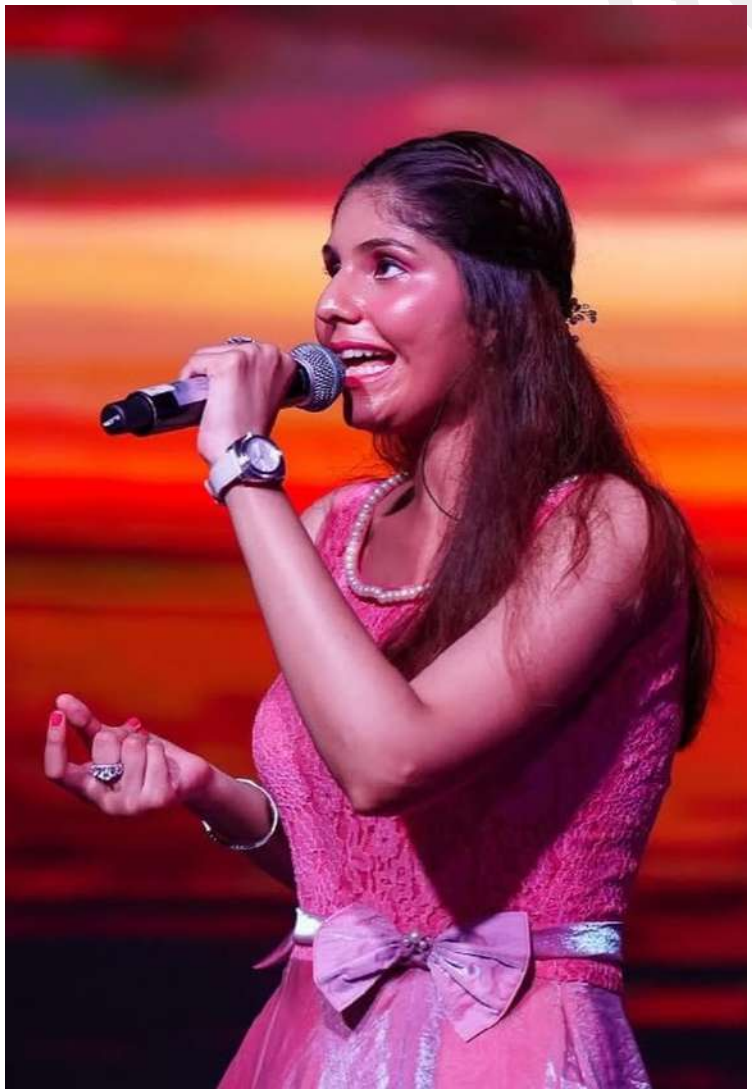
Zuaibh Khan

Zuhaib Khan, a talented singer, songwriter, and music producer trained under the Banaras Gharana, delivered a soulful performance at Purple Fest. Having worked on film projects like O My Ghost and Ram Setu and participated in shows such as The Voice of India, he brought a rich blend of classical and contemporary music to the stage, captivating the audience with his versatility and depth.



Ankita Sehdev

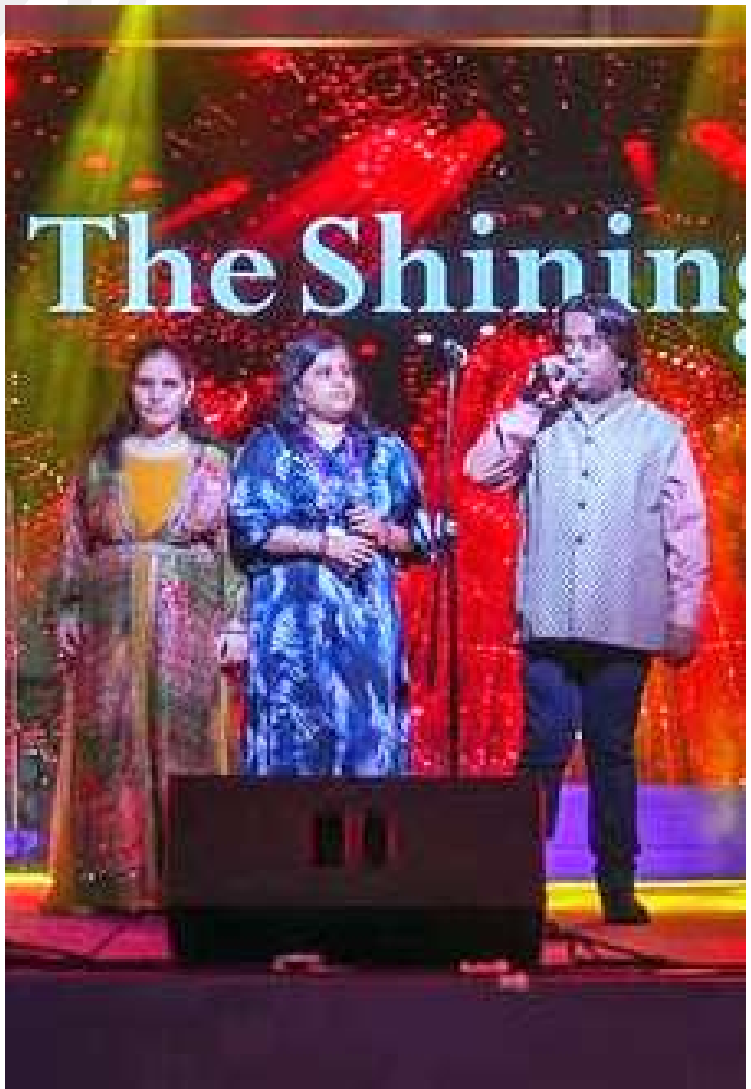
Ankita Sahadev, a talented singer with visual impairment, delivered a wonderful performance at Purple Fest, mesmerizing the audience with her soulful voice. Her performance filled the venue with emotion and grace, leaving a lasting impression on everyone present.





Mallakhamba

Talented children from Shri B. D. Tatti Memorial Charitable Trust, Bengaluru delivered a remarkable Mallakhamba performance at the International Purple Fest Goa 2025. The boys and girls with hearing impairment showcased exceptional strength, balance, and coordination through the traditional art of pole gymnastics. Their performance was a powerful display of discipline, teamwork, and determination, earning enthusiastic applause from the audience.



Shining Starts

Shining Stars Band, a Delhi-based multi-genre music group comprising talented musicians with disabilities, delivered an energetic performance at Purple Fest. Blending diverse musical styles with confidence and professionalism, the band showcased exceptional artistry while promoting inclusion through music. Having performed at prestigious venues such as the Rashtrapati Bhavan, their presence added vibrancy and inspiration to the celebration, reflecting the power of talent beyond barriers.

PURPLE RAIN



Victory Arts Foundation

Victory Arts Foundation, from Shiamak Davar's Institute for the Performing Arts, delivered a vibrant and inclusive performance at Purple Fest. The team collaborated with students with disabilities from Goa, training them intensively for a month to prepare a synchronized and high-energy act.

The performance reflected dedication, teamwork, and artistic excellence, bringing together professional dancers and young performers on one stage. It stood as a powerful example of how structured training, mentorship, and the performing arts can create confidence, inclusion, and shared celebration.



Shekarnath Qureshi

Shikhar Naad Qureshi, acclaimed percussionist and music producer, delivered an electrifying performance at the International Purple Fest Goa 2025. Son of percussion maestro Taufiq Qureshi and grandson of tabla legend Ustad Allarakha, he blends Indian classical rhythms with contemporary fusion. His high-energy act added vibrant musical depth to the celebration.



Vijay Prakash

Renowned playback singer Vijay Prakash delivered an electrifying performance at the International Purple Fest Goa 2025, headlining the “Purple Rain” concert. As a featured artist celebrating inclusion and diversity, he captivated the audience with his powerful vocals and dynamic stage presence, turning the evening into a memorable celebration of music and empowerment.

PURPLE RAIN



Chayanit The Chosen One

Chayanit – The Chosen Ones, a Delhi NCR-based band of neurodivergent and disabled musicians founded by drummer Chayan Taneja and pianist Devanga Bidrum Kalita, delivered a truly mind-blowing performance that left the audience spellbound. Blending rock, Bollywood, and Western classical music, the band's electrifying stage presence and powerful musical synergy beautifully reflected their mission of inclusion, talent, and limitless potential.



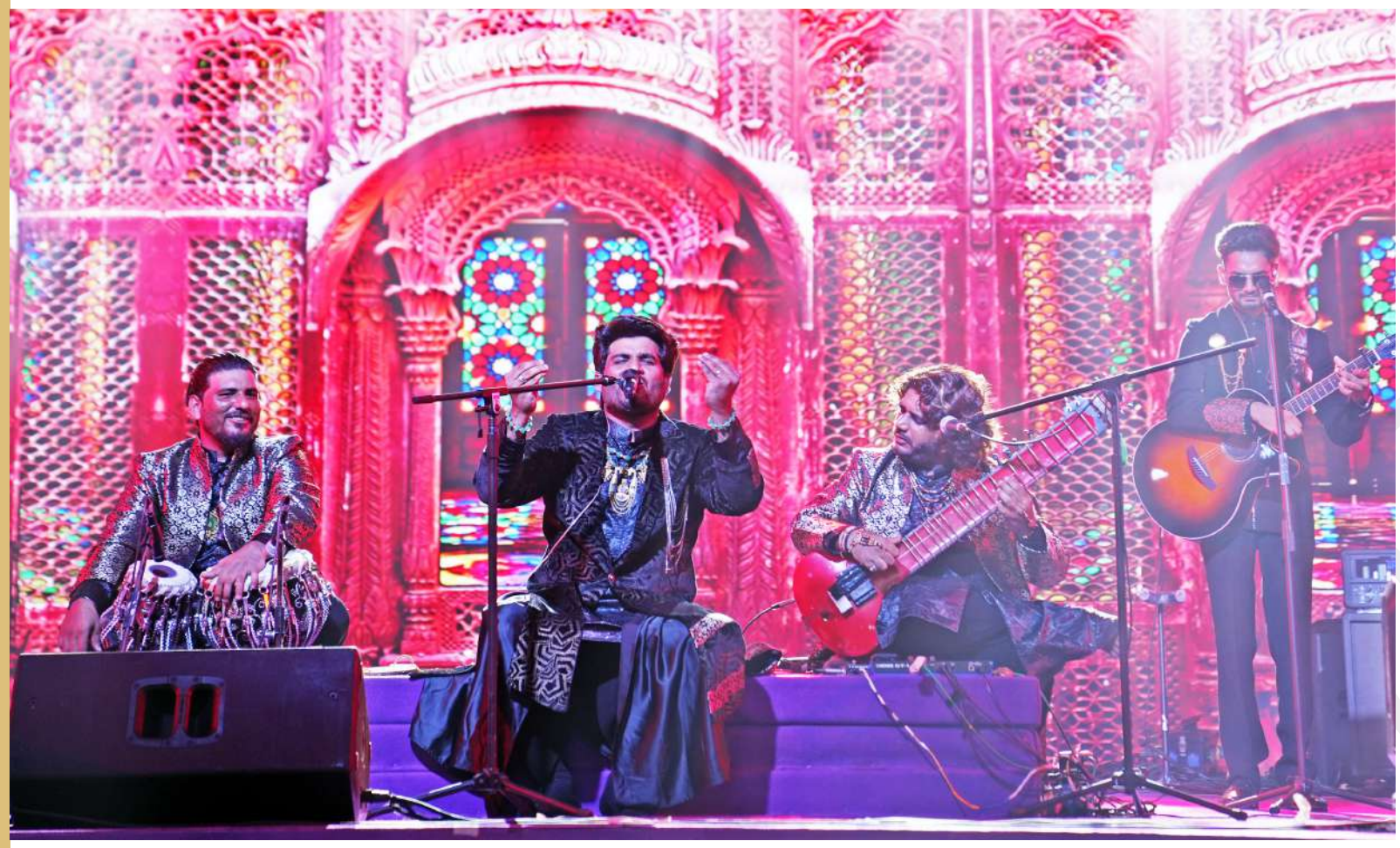
Prashant Rout

Hailing from rural Odisha, Prashant Kumar Rout is an acclaimed artist and Sabal Awardee known for his inspiring performances and tireless advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. A proud representative of Odisha's rich cultural heritage, he has consistently promoted traditional and contemporary dance while mentoring young artists in his community.

At the International Purple Fest, he emerged as one of the major highlights of the event. His deeply moving performance left the audience emotional and spellbound, powerfully reflecting resilience, talent, and the transformative spirit of art.



PURPLE RAIN



Swaraag

Swaraag, a premier Jaipur-based Indo-Western fusion band set the stage ablaze with their vibrant performance at Purple Fest. Seamlessly blending Rajasthani folk, Sufi melodies, and modern rock, the band's electrifying energy had everyone on their feet.

With the dynamic use of traditional instruments like the Khartal, Morchang, and Zitar alongside drums and guitar, Swaraag created an infectious rhythm that turned the evening into a joyous musical celebration, making the entire audience dance to their beats.



Surmayi Sham

Goa's own Surmayi Shaam added a touch of elegance to the evening with their outstanding performance. Their soulful melodies and graceful stage presence created a mesmerizing atmosphere, making the celebration even more special and memorable for the audience.

PURPLE RAIN

Sona Mahopatra

Sona Mahopatra, a Bollywood singer and a dynamic performer, took Purple Fest to the next level with her high-energy performance. Her electrifying stage presence and powerful moves captivated the audience, making the event unforgettable.



Sara Dalal

Hailing from Goa, Sara delivered a wonderfully soulful set that mesmerized the audience. Her expressive vocals and emotive singing conveyed deep feeling and artistry, demonstrating that talent transcends barriers. Every note resonated, leaving the audience spellbound and deeply connected to her performance.





Anik Dessai

Hailing from Goa, India, DJ Anik is a celebrated DJ and remixer known for his exceptional talent and versatility. At Purple Fest, Anik Dessai set the stage on fire, getting the entire audience moving and grooving to his infectious rhythms, creating an unforgettable high-energy experience.



Resham Talwar

Resham delivered a graceful and captivating performance at Purple Fest, showcasing her versatility as a voice-over artist, singer, and performer. Her talent and expressive presence mesmerized the audience, leaving a lasting impression of elegance and artistry.

PURPLE RAIN



7 Notes

One of Goa's most popular and celebrated bands, The Seven Notes Band turned the entire venue into a pulsating celebration of music. Their dynamic, high-energy performance blended contemporary and traditional Goan influences, compelling everyone to dance and sing along. The band's charisma and musical synergy truly elevated the festival atmosphere.



Basuri and Bliss

This instrumental ensemble created a soothing and soulful musical experience, captivating the audience with intricate melodies and seamless coordination. Their performance blended classical and contemporary elements, allowing listeners to immerse themselves in a serene yet powerful atmosphere, highlighting the emotional power of instrumental music.



PURPLE RAIN



Disabilitiy Alliance

PwDs from Goa showcased the richness of local culture through vibrant folk dances. Their performances celebrated Goan traditions while highlighting the talent, discipline, and creativity of performers with disabilities. Each act told a story, leaving the audience inspired by the power of inclusion and cultural pride.







Little People

PwDs from Goa showcased the richness of local culture through vibrant folk dances. Their performances celebrated Goan traditions while highlighting the talent, discipline, and creativity of performers with disabilities. Each act told a story, leaving the audience inspired by the power of inclusion and cultural pride.

PURPLE RAIN



Manasi Gosh

IndianIdolwinnerManasiGhoshenthralled the audience with her exceptional vocal range and stage charisma. Her soulful and powerful renditions captivated every corner of the venue, infusing the festival with glamour, energy, and star-quality performances that left a lasting impression.







Miracle on Wheels

True to their name, this performance was nothing short of spectacular. Combining skill, creativity, and energy, the artists delivered a mind-blowing display of talent and innovation, leaving the audience awestruck and celebrating the limitless possibilities of performance art.



NOT JUST STARS ON EARTH, BUT STARS BY THE SHORE - SITARE ZAMEEN PAR LIGHTING UP AT INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST WITH JOY

PURPLE FUN

Soul Travelling: Nature walk and Heritage Walk



The International Purple Fest Goa 2025 highlighted inclusive and accessible tourism through two specially curated Soul Travelling experiences the Chorao Island Experience and the Fontainhas Heritage Walk, both experiences were designed with wheelchair-friendly routes, guided support, and sensitised volunteers to ensure comfort for all participants.

Ahead of the Fest, Soul Travelling ambassadors underwent disability awareness and sign-language sensitisation training. Over four days, hundreds of participants, including persons with disabilities, engaged in these cultural experiences, showcasing Goa's commitment to inclusive, community-oriented tourism.







Zumba Activity

An energetic Zumba session was conducted every morning from 9th to 12th October, creating a vibrant and joyful start to the day. Filled with high spirits and infectious enthusiasm, the activity drew a large crowd of participants and volunteers who joined in with equal excitement.

The sessions were lively, playful, and inclusive, transforming the space into a celebration of movement, rhythm, and togetherness—proving that fitness can be fun, accessible, and empowering for all.

Drum Circle and Art Circle

Rhythm became a language of inclusion at the Drum Circle and Art Circle, a vibrant fun activity organised by Glad People Association during the International Purple Fest. Using the powerful beats of djembe drums, participants came together to create music that transcended words, abilities, and boundaries.

The circle resonated with energy, joy, and collective expression, as each beat reflected unity and shared emotion. Alongside the rhythm, the Art Circle provided a space for free artistic expression, allowing creativity to flow through colours, forms, and imagination. Together, music and art created a sensory experience that celebrated participation over perfection.

This activity beautifully embodied the spirit of the Purple Fest—where inclusion is not just practiced, but felt. The Drum and Art Circle stood as a reminder that when creativity is shared, everyone finds a place in the rhythm.

Drum Circle and Art Circle







Biodiversity Walk

A thoughtfully curated Biodiversity Walk was organised to offer persons with disabilities a meaningful connection with nature. Conducted by Aranya Foundation, the walk introduced participants to the vibrant bird life of Goa, with experts guiding them in spotting birds and sharing insights into their habitats and behaviours.

Held daily at the Panjim Garden, the initiative attracted growing participation each day. Designed to be completely accessible, the walk ensured an inclusive, enriching, and immersive experience—celebrating nature, learning, and accessibility coming together seamlessly.









Purple Boat Cruise

The International Purple Fest Goa 2025 featured a dedicated boat cruise experience for persons with disabilities, offering an accessible and enjoyable outing on the scenic waters of Goa. Participants of all ages joined the cruise, enjoying music, dancing and a lively on-board atmosphere. Wheelchair users and individuals with mobility challenges were assisted by trained volunteers to ensure their safety and comfort throughout the activity. The Royal Cruises team coordinated the event smoothly, making the cruise a memorable and inclusive experience for everyone involved.



Water Sports Activities

The Water Sports activities at the Purple Fest offered an exhilarating and inclusive experience through jet skiing, scuba diving, and parasailing. Carefully planned with safety and accessibility at the forefront, these adventures enabled persons with disabilities to engage confidently with the sea. Supported by trained professionals, the activities celebrated courage, freedom, and the joy of participation. Each moment on the water reflected the spirit of the Purple Fest—breaking barriers and creating unforgettable experiences for all.

Para Sailing



Jet Skiing





PURPLE EXHIBITION



The Purple Exhibition Zone blossomed into a vibrant, inclusive marketplace with over a hundred exhibition stalls and food courts managed by persons with and without disabilities. The zone showcased a rich spectrum of talent—featuring artisans, entrepreneurs, and renowned organisations presenting assistive devices, prosthetic limbs, accessibility solutions, self-help group products, handmade accessories, home-crafted items, and much more. Each stall carried its own story of skill, creativity, and empowerment, transforming the entire space into a celebration of innovation and inclusive enterprise. It was not just an exhibition—it was a testament to the remarkable abilities and entrepreneurial spirit that define the heart of the International Purple Fest.

T he Purple Exhibition was a hub of innovation and creativity, featuring over 90 stalls showcasing the work of NGOs, artisans, and individuals with and without disabilities. Visitors explored a wide range of assistive technologies, wheelchair innovations, adaptive products, and inclusive solutions, highlighting advancements that empower and enable people of all abilities. The exhibition offered a unique opportunity to experience innovation in action, fostering awareness, inspiration, and inclusion.

PURPLE EXHIBITION





PURPLE EXHIBITION







CLOSING CEREMONY

The Closing Ceremony of the International Purple Fest Goa 2025 was held on 12th October 2025, marking the successful conclusion of India's largest inclusive festival. The ceremony was graced by Shri Pusapati Ashok Gajapati Raju, Hon'ble Governor of Goa; Dr Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa; Shri Shripad Naik, Hon'ble Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy; Shri Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator, United Nations India; Shri Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble Minister for the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities; along with Shri Prasanna Acharya, Secretary, DEPwD; Smt Varsha Naik, Director, DEPwD; Shri Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for PwDs, Shri Taha Haaziq, Secretary, SCPwD;. The event celebrated the achievements of the festival, highlighted impactful initiatives, and featured cultural performances, leaving a lasting message of inclusion, accessibility, and empowerment.

CLOSING CEREMONY







छायांकित पर्पल फेस्ट....

१) पणजी : दिव्यांगांसाठी नव्याने तयार करण्यात आलेली इलेक्ट्रिक बाईक पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलमध्ये प्रदर्शनासाठी पुढील ६ महिन्यांत लाँच झाल्यानंतर लाभार्थ्यांना ती घेता येणार आहे.
२) 'मिरॅकल ऑन द व्हील'' ग्रुपच्या कलाकारांचे आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलमध्ये दिमाखदार नृत्य सादरीकरण. ३) गोव्यातील दिव्यांग कलाकारांचा आकर्षक नृत्याविष्कार.

मुख्यमंत्र्यांची माहिती • १५हून अधिक देश होणार सहभागी

'थिंक इन्क्लुजीव' संकल्पनेवर रंगणार यंदाचा पर्पल फेस्ट

प्रतिनिधी । गोवन वार्ता

पणजी : जगभरात गोव्याची शान उंचावणारा यंदाचा पर्पल फेस्ट ९ ते १२ ऑक्टोबरदरम्यान संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघ तसेच सामाजिक न्याय व सशक्तीकरण मंत्रालयाच्या सहकार्याने होणार आहे. महोत्सवात

पर्पल महोत्सवातील कार्यक्रम...

यंदाच्या महोत्सवात जलक्रीडा, पॅराग्लायडिंग, स्काय प्रदर्शन होणार आहेत. त्यात



समावेशक शिक्षण, रोजगार संधी उपलब्धतेच्या वचनबद्धता

टीम दैनिक हेराल्ड

पणजी, दि.१३ : आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट २०२५च्या तिसऱ्या आवृत्तीचा समारोप हा पुढील वर्षीच्या महोत्सवासाठी जबा उत्साह आणि उत्कंठेसह झाला. भारत सरकारच्या सामाजिक न्याय आणि सबलीकरण मंत्रालयाच्या आणि संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघाचे भारतातील वाचालयाच्या सहयोगाने दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभाग आणि राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाच्या गतीने आयोजित हा सप्ताहभराचा आणि सर्वसमावेशक उत्सव भारतासह जगभरातील मान्यवर, प्रतिनिधी आणि कलाकार यांनी एकत्रितपणे साजरा केला. समाज समर्थ भला राज्यभाल अशोक पणजी राजू, केलशी राजभवन कॉर्पोरेट अशोक स्वामी डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत, विशेषतः



आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट



Goemkarponn

27 Jun 2025 - Page 6

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

Team Goemkarponn

Panaji: The International Purple Fest Goa 2025, India's premier celebration of the rights and achievements of persons with disabilities, will be held from October 9 to 12 in Goa. Organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Office of the



official website https://ijst.goa.gov.in

ensures accessibility in all spheres of life, from cities to villages. Minister Subhash Phal

Pawaskar, stated that Purple Fest 2025 is more than just an event—it is a movement to bring visibility to the real-life experiences of persons

and guide impactful ideas for public spaces.

The Fest will also include the Purple Conference and Purple Think Tank, which will host discussions on policy, rural inclusion,

feature powerful stage performances by artists with disabilities.

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

By emphasizing Universal Design and rural inclusion, Purple Fest Goa 2025 aims to catalyze real

मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई पर्पल फेस्टमध्ये विविध क्षेत्रातील १०० हून अधिक कार्यक्रमांचे

राज्यभरातील दिव्यांगांना देणार दोन कोटींची उ

प्रतिनिधी । गोवन वार्ता



पणजी : पर्पल फेस्ट दरम्यान राज्यभरातील दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना सुमारे २ कोटी रुपयांची उपकरणे देण्यात येणार आहेत. यामध्ये दिव्यांगांसाठी आवश्यक असणारी सहाय्यक उपकरणे, यंत्रांचा समावेश आहे. सध्या दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरण खात्यातर्फे अशा गरजूंची यादी तयार करण्याचे काम सुरू असल्याची माहिती मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई यांनी दिली.

बुधवारी पणजीत झालेल्या पत्रका

१२ ऑक्टोबर रोजी

फळदेसाई यांनी सांगितले क्लबतर्फे १२ ऑक्टोबर रो आले आहे. यामध्ये दिव्यां एकत्रितपणे धावणार आहे ५०० हून अधिक स्पर्धक

पर्पलमुळे विशेष मुलांची कला जागतिक स्तराव

बाबी मलिक : गोवा स्पेशल स्कूल असोसिएशनच्या स्टॉलला उदंड प्रतिस

दिव्यांगांना देणार २ कोटींची उपकरणे : मंत्री फळदे

प्रतिनिधी
पणजी

पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलनिमित्त राज्यातील दिव्यांगांना सुमारे २ कोटी



जर्सीचे अनावरण करताना मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई. सोबत ी, गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, परेश देऊळगावकर व इतर.

यी...

रियर्स फाउंडेशन (एचबीएफ) ही पुण्यातील ना-नफा वेशन आणि सक्षमीकरण

५००हून अधिक दि तसेच दिव्यांग नस सहभागी होत अहह एकमेकांप्रती संवेदनशी आणि खेळाचा आनंद घेणार आहेत. पणजीत क्टोबर रोजी आयोजित उपक्रमामध्ये सर्व सहभा शेजारी यावणार अस जेव्हा संधी उपलब्ध सहज, सुलभतेने सर्वसमा साध्य होते या विचाराच्या गती देणार आहेत, अ फळदेसाई म्हणाले.

राज्य दिव्यांगजन

True development means inclusion, says Sawant at Purple Fest finale

NT Reporter
Panaji



A developed society is one that gives equal space to everyone, said Chief Minister Pramod Sawant during the closing ceremony of the International Purple Fest in Panaji on Sunday. Emphasising the importance of sustained inclusivity, he said, "True development means

change, and the spirit of a new India—confident, compassionate, and inclusive." He said that Goa proved inclusion is not charity but equity, empowerment, celebration, and collaboration.

"For the first time in India, we launched the Para High Federation," he said, adding that accessibility

MEDIA CLIPPINGS

Goemkarponn

27 Jun 2025 - Page 6

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

Team Goemkarponn



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

मुख्यमंत्र्यांची माहिती • १५हून अधिक देश होणार सहभागी

'थिंक इन्क्लुजीव' संकल्पनेवर रंगणार यंदाचा पर्पल फेस्ट

प्रतिनिधी । गोवन वार्ता



पर्पल महोत्सवातील कार्यक्रम...

यंदाच्या महोत्सवात जलक्रीडा, पॅरासेलिंग, स्कुबा डायव्हिंग यासारखे प्रकार होणार आहेत. दिव्यांग व्यक्ती पोहू शकतात, जलक्रीडा करू शकतात. दिव्यांगांचे पोहणे, जलक्रीडा पाहण्याची संधी महोत्सवात मिळणार आहे. दिव्यांगांसाठीच्या उपयुक्त वस्तू, उपकरणे या सेवांची माहिती देणाऱ्या स्टॉल्सचे प्रदर्शन महोत्सवात असेल. पर्पल ऑलीडोस्कोपमध्ये संगीत, नृत्य, व्हिज्युअल आर्टस यावर आधारीत खास दिव्यांगांसाठी कार्यक्रम होतील. पर्पल स्पोर्ट्स विभागात क्रिकेट, इतर खेळांचे प्रकार होतील.

पणजी : जगभरात गोव्याची शान उंचावणारा यंदाचा पर्पल फेस्ट ९ ते १२ ऑक्टोबरदरम्यान संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघ तसेच सामाजिक न्याय व सशक्तीकरण मंत्रालयाच्या सहकार्याने होणार आहे. महोत्सवात १५हून अधिक देशांचे सहभाग निश्चित असून दिव्यांगांचे जीवन सुसह्य कसे होईल, याबद्दल महोत्सवात भर दिला जाईल, अशी माहिती मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत यांनी गुरुवारी पत्रकार परिषदेत दिली. यावेळी दिव्यांग खात्याचे मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, सचिव प्रसन्न आचार्य, राज्य दिव्यांग आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर व खात्याच्या संचालक वर्षा नाईक उपस्थित होत्या.

मुख्यमंत्री म्हणाले, 'थिंक इन्क्लुजीव - युनिवर्सल डिझाइन फॉर एव्हरीवन' या संकल्पनेवर आधारित यंदाचा पर्पल फेस्ट होणार आहे. मागील पर्पल फेस्टची पंतप्रधान नरेंद्र मोदी यांनीही स्तुती केली होती. तसेच राष्ट्रपती द्रौपदी मुर्मू यांनीसुद्धा उल्लेख केला होता. गोव्याच्या पावलावर पाऊल ठेवत इतर राज्यांमध्येसुद्धा पर्पल महोत्सव होऊ लागले आहेत. मागील वर्षीच्या पर्पल महोत्सवात १५ देशांच्या प्रतिनिधींनी भाग घेतला होता. यंदाच्या महोत्सवात १५हून अधिक देशांचे प्रतिनिधी सहभागी होणार आहेत.

दिव्यांगांसाठी उपकरणे, तंत्रज्ञान, अभ्यासाची साधने कशा प्रकारे निर्माण करावी लागतील, याबद्दल चर्चा होणार आहे. दिव्यांगांनाही सामान्य जनांबरोबर सामावून घेऊन त्यांच्या सशक्तीकरणाचा उद्देश हा महोत्सव आयोजित करण्यामागे आहे. दिव्यांगांसाठी विशेष करून ग्रामीण भागात क्याच समस्या असतात. आरोग्य, शिक्षण, वाहतूक या सेवांचा इतरांप्रमाणे त्यांना लाभ घेता येत नाही. दिव्यांगांना शिक्षण, आरोग्य व वाहतुकीच्या सुविधा घेण्यासाठी तंत्रज्ञान तयार करण्याचे आव्हान आहे, असे मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई म्हणाले. प्रतिनिधी नोंदणी वेबसाईटवर किंवा मोबाईल ॲपवर करण्याची सुविधा आहे. प्रतिनिधी नोंदणीच्या ॲपचा मुख्यमंत्र्यांच्या हस्ते शुभारंभ झाला.

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

NT Reporter

Panaji



Divyanshu Ganatra, Founder of ABBF, said they believe sport has the power to break all kinds of barriers.

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

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

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

Divyanshu Ganatra, Founder of ABBF, said they believe sport has the power to break all kinds of barriers between people. The event is being organised by Adventures Beyond Barriers Foundation (ABBF), along with the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities and the Department of Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities.

Brijesh Bhosle, 75% blind, wins chess tournament ahead of Purple Fest

NT Reporter

Panaji



More than 10 students from NAB Goa's Santacruz branch participated, along with others with different disabilities from across the state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई | पर्पल फेस्टमध्ये विविध क्षेत्रातील १०० हून अधिक कार्यक्रमांचे आयोजन

राज्यभरातील दिव्यांगांना देणार दोन कोटींची उपकरणे!

प्रतिनिधी | गोवन वार्ता

पणजी : पर्पल फेस्ट दरम्यान राज्यभरातील दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना सुमारे २ कोटी रुपयांची उपकरणे देण्यात येणार आहेत. यामध्ये दिव्यांगांसाठी आवश्यक असणारी सहाय्यक उपकरणे, यंत्रांचा समावेश आहे. सध्या दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरण खात्यातर्फे अशा गरजूंची यादी तयार करण्याचे काम सुरू असल्याची माहिती मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई यांनी दिली.

बुधवारी पणजीत झालेल्या पत्रकार परिषदेत ते बोलत होते. यावेळी दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरु पावसकर, अपर्णा प्रभुदेसाई, दिव्यांशु गंत्रा उपस्थित होते.



पत्रकार परिषदेत माहिती देताना मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई. बाजूला गुरु पावसकर.

फळदेसाई यांनी सांगितले की, मागील पर्पल फेस्टमध्ये आम्ही हा उपक्रम राबवला होता. त्याला मिळालेला प्रतिसाद पाहून यंदाही दिव्यांगांना उपकरणे देण्याचा निर्णय घेण्यात आला आहे. चार दिवसांच्या कालावधीत तालुका निहाय मदत दिली जाईल. फेस्टिव्हलमध्ये दिव्यांगांच्या प्रश्नांवर चर्चा करण्यासाठी २२ परिषदा घेण्यात येतील. याशिवाय कौशल्य विकास कार्यशाळा आयोजित केली जाईल. यंदा दिव्यांगांसाठी प्लेसमेंट कॅम्प भरवण्यात येणार आहे.

फेस्टिव्हलसाठी आतापर्यंत ९ हजार जणांनी नोंदणी केली आहे. हा आकडा १३ हजार पर्यंत पोहोचण्याची शक्यता आहे. आतापर्यंत २५ देशांच्या प्रतिनिधींचा सहभाग निश्चित झाला आहे. फेस्टिवलला दर दिवशी२५ हजार लोक भेट देतील, असा आमचा अंदाज आहे. फेस्टिव्हलमध्ये दिव्यांगांसाठी क्रीडा, संस्कृती, शिक्षण अशा विविध क्षेत्रातील १०० हून अधिक इव्हेंट असणार आहेत. सध्या राज्यात फेस्टिव्हल अंतर्गत सुरू असणाऱ्या बुद्धिबळ, क्रिकेट स्पर्धांना विविध राज्यातून चांगला प्रतिसाद मिळत आहे.

१२ ऑक्टोबर रोजी मॅरेथॉनचे आयोजन

फळदेसाई यांनी सांगितले की, पर्पल फेस्ट, एबीबीएफ आणि रोटरी क्लबतर्फे १२ ऑक्टोबर रोजी पणजीत मॅरेथॉनचे आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे. यामध्ये दिव्यांग असणाऱ्या आणि नसणाऱ्या व्यक्ती एकत्रितपणे धावणार आहेत. मॅरेथॉन ३, ५ आणि ७ किमीची असून यामध्ये ५०० हून अधिक स्पर्धक भाग घेतील.

CJI Gavai invited to International Purple Fest Goa 2025

NT Reporter
Panaji

The Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (SCPwD), Goa, in collaboration with the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), extended a warm invitation to the Chief Justice of India, Justice B R Gavai, to be part of the International Purple Fest Goa 2025, scheduled to take place in Goa from October 9-12.

The festival brochure was formally presented by Guruprasad Pawaskar (State Commissioner, PwDs), Varsha Naik (Director, DEPwD) and Taha Haaziq (Secretary, SCPwD).



The festival brochure was formally presented by Guruprasad Pawaskar (State Commissioner, PwDs), Varsha Naik (Director, DEPwD) and Taha Haaziq (Secretary, SCPwD).

The occasion was also graced by Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, Justice Alok Aradhe, Justice Mahesh Sonak, Justice Valmiki Menezes. Also present were senior journalist Prakash Kamat, Patrick D'Souza (president, Disability Alliance for Inclusive Goa), Sadaf Khan and Vishant Nagvekar.

Goemkarponn

07 Aug 2025 · Page 6

International Purple Fest Goa 2025 Unveils 21 Purple Ambassadors to Champion Inclusion and Accessibility

Team Goemkarponn



Panaji: The stage is set for India's largest and most inclusive celebration of ability and accessibility, as International Purple Fest – Goa 2025 officially announced its 21 Purple Ambassadors. These inspiring individuals—each representing a unique disability—will lead the movement for inclusivity at the much-anticipated event scheduled from October 9 to 12, 2025, in Goa.

The announcement was made at a special event attended by key dignitaries, including Shri Subhash Phal Dessai, Hon'ble Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa; Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, IAS, Secretary, Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment; Mr. Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator in India; and other senior officials from the Government of Goa and partner organisations.

This year's cohort of 21 Purple Ambassadors reflects the spirit of grassroots inclusion with majority women representation, participation from rural India, and strong local presence with three ambassadors from Goa. Each ambassador was selected through a rigorous nomination process, recognizing individuals with lived experience, leadership potential, and a commitment to disability advocacy.

Purple Fest is Goa's bold step toward true inclusion

Global participation, rural ambassadors, and cutting-edge inclusivity mark the International Purple Fest, Goa's biggest festival for persons with disabilities from October 9 – 12

Team GeM

Accessibility, inclusion, and transformation are not just promises in Goa, but have become reality through the imprint of the International Purple Fest. The blockbuster of the sought-after event which will be held from 9 to 12 Oct. 21 is now become a movement. Jaw-dropping into one of the world's most inclusive festivals, bringing together delegates from over 30 countries, and this year it is being co-organised by the United Nations. The 2021 edition was in a spotlight on rural inclusion, with a commitment to accessibility and empowerment that extends beyond urban areas to villages.

Under the dynamic leadership of Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant and Minister for Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phaldesai and guided by the vision of Guruprasad Pawaskar, State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, International Purple Fest has become much more than an annual event; it is a movement that has transformed the state's approach to accessibility, awareness, and empowerment.

There is a huge increase in awareness and sensitisation among non-disabled towards persons with disabilities. Even though Purple Fest is an event held over a few days, the consciousness continues with training and sensitisation programs throughout the year. So far we have benefitted more than 1,000 individuals across Government agencies like tourism, transport, PWD and other sectors, ultimately creating a ripple effect that reaches thousands more.

INTERESTING HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERNATIONAL PURPLE FEST GOA 2025:

- **GLOBAL REACH:** Delegates from over 50 countries, with United Nations as co-organiser.
- **RURAL INCLUSION:** First time Purple Ambassadors from villages, showing women's perspectives.
- **ADVENTURE SPORTS:** Scuba diving, parasailing and more for participants with disabilities.
- **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY:** Bluetooth beacons, digital accessibility zones, real-time speech-to-text, QR code-based navigation.
- **CULTURAL CELEBRATION:** Purple Rain concerts, art exhibitions, inclusive film screenings.
- **STATEWIDE ACCESSIBILITY:** Over 150 public locations in Purple upgraded, wheelchair-accessible ramps have been introduced statewide.

This platform brings together experts, policymakers, civil society, and persons with disabilities to exchange ideas and create action roadmaps. Dedicated conferences and think tanks will address inclusive education, assistive technology, employment, sports, arts, and culture.

The fest celebrates talent through Purple Rain concerts, art exhibitions, film screenings, and cultural showcases, demonstrating that persons with disabilities are not just participants, but leaders, creators, and artists. Every aspect of the event has been carefully designed for accessibility. Advanced technologies, including Bluetooth beacons, for indoor navigation, digital accessibility zones, real-time speech-to-text, audio description services, and QR code-enabled information, ensure that every participant can engage fully and independently.

With over 1,500 beneficiaries receiving aid, and applications well-timed to 12 crore during the fest, and accessible ramps forming guard smoothly across the venue, the International Purple Fest Goa 2025 is a wide vision of inclusion in action, where access, opportunity and mobility transform everyday lives. Society and community change are becoming more sensitive and empathetic towards those with disabilities. As persons is more than a three-day event, it includes towards making inclusion a part of everyday life.



दिव्यांगांना देणार २ कोटींची उपकरणे : मंत्री फळदेसाई

प्रतिनिधी
पणजी

पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलनिमित्त राज्यातील दिव्यांगांना सुमारे २ कोटी रुपयांची उपकरणे दिली जातील. त्यामध्ये दिव्यांगांसाठी गरजेची असणारी सहाय्यक उपकरणे, यंत्रांचा सहभाग आहे. दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरण खात्याच्यावतीने अशा गरजू दिव्यांगाची यादी काढण्याचे काम सुरू केले आहे, अशी माहिती समाजकल्याण मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई यांनी दिली.

पर्वरी येथील मंत्रालयात घेण्यात आलेल्या पत्रकार परिषदेत मंत्री फळदेसाई बोलत होते. यावेळी दिव्यांग राज्य आयुक्तालयाचे आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, अर्पणा प्रभुदेसाय, एबीवीएफचे संस्थापक दिव्यांशू गंत्रा उपस्थित होते.

पर्पल फेस्तासाठी आतापर्यंत ९ हजार नोंदणी झाली आहे. हा आकडा १३ हजारापर्यंत पोहचण्याची शक्यता आहे. २५ देशांच्या प्रतिनिधींचा सहभाग निश्चित झाला आहे. पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलला दरदिवशी किमान २५ हजार लोक भेट देतील, असा अंदाज असल्याचे मंत्री फळदेसाई म्हणाले.

खेळाच्या माध्यमातून दिव्यांग व्यक्तींनाही समावेशकतेचा लाभ व आनंद देण्यासाठी ना-नफा तत्वावर कार्यरत असलेल्या अँडकॅपेबर्स बियॉन्ड बॅरियर्स फाऊंडेशन संस्थेद्वारे राज्य



पर्वरी : पर्पल फेस्तानिमित्त 'इन्क्लुझिव रन' या उपक्रमाच्या जर्सीचे अनावरण करताना मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई. सोबत दिव्यांशु गणात्रा, प्रशांत कोल्हे, अर्पणा प्रभुदेसाई, ऋषी वर्मा, गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, परेश देऊळगावकर व इतर.

एबीवीएफ विषयी...

अँडकॅपेबर्स बियॉन्ड बॅरियर्स फाऊंडेशन (एबीवीएफ) ही पुण्यातील ना-नफा तत्वावर कार्यरत संस्था आहे. दिव्यांगांचे समावेशन आणि सक्षमीकरण करणे या उद्देशानुसार ही संस्था कार्य करते. दिव्यंगत्व असलेल्या आणि नसलेल्या लोकांसाठी मैदानी खेळ आणि साहसी उपक्रम आयोजित करून हे उद्दिष्ट साध्य करण्याचे धोरण संस्थेने आखले आहे. मॅरेथॉन, पॅराग्लायडिंग, टँडम सायकलिंग, स्कुबा डायविंग, रॅपलिंग असे विविध क्रीडा आणि साहसी उपक्रमांचे आयोजन संस्थेद्वारे केले जाणार आहे.

दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालय इन्क्लुझिव रन (समावेशक आणि गोवा राज्य दिव्यांगजन धावणे) या उपक्रमाची घोषणा सक्षमीकरण विभागाच्या सहकार्याने केली. या क्रीडा उपक्रमामध्ये ५००हून अधिक दिव्यांग व्यक्ती तसेच दिव्यांग नसलेल्या व्यक्ती सहभागी होत अडथळे ओलांडणे, एकमेकांप्रती संवेदनशीलतेने वागणे आणि खेळाचा आनंद एकत्रितपणे घेणार आहेत. पणजीत दि. १२ ऑक्टोबर रोजी आयोजित या क्रीडा उपक्रमामध्ये सर्व सहभागी शेजारी शेजारी धावणार असून यातून जेव्हा संधी उपलब्ध होते तेव्हा सहज, सुलभतेने सर्वसमावेशकताही साध्य होते या विचाराच्या प्रसाराला गती देणार आहेत, असेही मंत्री फळदेसाई म्हणाले.

राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त पावसकर म्हणाले की, 'पर्पल फेस्त हा केवळ एक कार्यक्रम नाही; हा उपक्रम म्हणजे सकारात्मक बदलाची चळवळ आहे. जेव्हा दिव्यांगत्व असलेले आणि दिव्यांगत्व नसलेले लोक समानतेने एकत्र येतात तेव्हा समाज खऱ्या समावेशकतेच्या जवळ जातो हा विचार या समावेशक धावणे उपक्रमातून आपल्याला मिळणार आहे.

'पर्पल फेस्ट'साठी दहा हजार प्रतिनिधींची नोंदणी : पावसकर

दिव्यांगासाठी कार्यक्रम, क्रीडा स्पर्धांचेही आयोजन

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क



गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर

पणजी : राज्यात ९ ते १२ ऑक्टोबर रोजी होणाऱ्या पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलला देशासह जागतिक स्तरावर चांगला प्रतिसाद मिळत आहे. आतापर्यंत १० हजार जणांची ऑनलाईन नोंदणी झाली आहे. अजून १० हजार नोंदणी होणार आहे. तसेच यंदा गेल्या वर्षीच्या तुलनेत दिव्यांगासाठी अनेक मनोरंजनाचे कार्यक्रम, तसेच क्रीडा स्पर्धा आयोजित केल्या आहेत, अशी माहिती दिव्यांग राज्य आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर यांनी दिली.

पावसकर म्हणाले, गेल्या काही वर्षांच्या अनुभवातून यंदा हा महोत्सव खूपच आगळा वेगळा असणार आहे. दिव्यांगांसाठी क्रिकेट स्पर्धा तसेच इतर स्पर्धा आहेत. तसेच यंदा खास दिव्यांगासाठी जलक्रीडा प्रकाराचे आयोजन केले आहे. काही स्पर्धांची सुरुवात झाली आहे. या महोत्सवात राज्यात सर्व खास शाळांतील विद्यार्थी तसेच इतर दिव्यांग लोकांना आमंत्रित केले आहे. तसेच देश विदेशातील काही प्रतिनिधी येणार आहेत. त्यामुळे हा महोत्सव जागतिक स्तरावर एक वेगळाचा ठसा उमटवणार आहे.

३० देशांतील प्रतिनिधी घेणार सहभाग

❶ या महोत्सवासाठी ३० देशांतील प्रतिनिधींनी या महोत्सवात सहभाग घेण्याचे ठरविले आहे. तसेच या सर्व देशांतील प्रतिनिधी या स्पर्धेत सहभागी होणार आहेत.

❷ दिव्यांगाना सुलभ सेवा मिळाव्यात, यासाठी राज्यातील काही हॉटेलची आम्ही नोंदणी केली. त्यामुळे राज्यात या महोत्सवात येणाऱ्या दिव्यांग लोकांना याची योग्य प्रकारे राहण्याची सोय होणार. त्यांची खास काळजी घेतली जाणार आहे. तसेच त्यांना सर्व ती सुरक्षा पोहोचविली जाणार आहे.

सरन्यायाधीश भूषण गवई यांनी घेतली राज्यातील दिव्यांगांची भेट

दिव्यांग आयुक्तालयाच्या सरन्यायाधीशांना पर्पल फेस्ताचे निमंत्रण

प्रतिनिधी
पणजी

भारताचे सरन्यायाधीश भूषण आर. गवई गोव्यात आले असता त्यांनी राज्यातील दिव्यांग बांधवांची भेट घेऊन चौकशी केली. यावेळी त्यांच्यासमवेत मुंबई उच्च न्यायालयाचे न्यायाधीश आलोक आराध्ये, न्यायमूर्ती महेश सोनक, न्यायमूर्ती वाल्मिकी मिनेझेस, दिव्यांग आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, सचिव ताहा हाजिक, ज्येष्ठ पत्रकार प्रकाश कामत, डिसॅबिलिटी अलायन्स फॉर इन्क्लुझिव गोवाचे अध्यक्ष पॅट्रिक डिसोझा, श्रीमती सदाफ खान, विशांत नागवेकर उपस्थित होते.

सरन्यायाधीश गवई यांनी दिव्यांग विद्यार्थ्यांची भेट घेतल्यानंतर गोव्यात ९ ते १२ ऑक्टोबर दरम्यान होणाऱ्या आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्तमध्ये सहभागी होण्यासाठी राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालय आणि गोवा राज्य दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभाग यांच्या वतीने त्यांना आमंत्रण देण्यात आले.

या महोत्सवाच्या माध्यमातून जगभरातील तज्ज्ञ, धोरणकर्ते आणि दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना एका व्यासपीठावर एकत्र आणत आहे. २०२५ च्या आवृत्तीत नवोपक्रम, धोरणात्मक संवाद, सांस्कृतिक अभिव्यक्ती तसेच सुलभता आणि सक्षमीकरणाला प्रोत्साहन देणाऱ्या सर्वोत्तम पद्धती सादर होणार आहेत. या सर्व कार्यक्रमाविषयी माहिती सरन्यायाधीश गवई यांना देण्यात आली.



पणजी : सरन्यायाधीश भूषण आर. गवई यांना पर्पल फेस्ताची निमंत्रण पत्रिका दिल्याप्रसंगी न्यायाधीश आलोक आराध्ये, न्यायमूर्ती महेश सोनक, न्यायमूर्ती महेश सोनक, न्यायमूर्ती वाल्मिकी मिनेझेस, गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, ताहा हाजिक, प्रकाश कामत, पॅट्रिक डिसूझा, श्रीमती सदाफ खान, विशांत नागवेकर.

MEDIA CLIPPINGS



समावेशक शिक्षण, रोजगार संधी उपलब्धतेच्या वचनबद्धता

टीम दैनिक हेराल्ड

आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट २०२५ची दिमाखात सांगता

पणजी, दि.१३ : आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट २०२५च्या तिसऱ्या आवृत्तीचा समारोप हा पुढील वर्षीच्या महोत्सवासाठी नवा उत्साह आणि उत्कंठेस्सह झाला. भारत सरकारच्या सामाजिक न्याय आणि सक्षमीकरण मंत्रालयाच्या आणि संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघाचे भारतातील कार्यालयाच्या सहयोगाने दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभाग आणि राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाच्या संतीने आयोजित हा समारोहसत्ता आणि सक्षमीकरणाचा उत्सव भारतासह जगभरातील मान्यवर, प्रतिनिधी आणि कलाकार यांनी एकजुटीने साजरा केला.समापन समारंभाला राज्यपाल अशोक गजपती राजू, केरळचे राज्यपाल राजेंद्र आर्लेकर, मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत, केंद्रीय ऊर्जा आणि नवीन आणि नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा राज्यमंत्री श्रीपाद नाईक आणि सामाजिक कल्याण मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई यांची प्रमुख उपस्थिती राहिली तसेच विशेष पाहुणे म्हणून राज्यसभा सदस्य सदानंद शेट तानावडे आणि भारतातील संयुक्त राष्ट्रांचे निवासी समन्वयक शोम्बी शार्प उपस्थित होते. दिव्यांगजन राज्य आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, पणजी महापालिकेचे महापौर रोहित मोन्सेरात, तसेच सामाजिक न्याय आणि सक्षमीकरण मंत्रालयाच्या दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाचे सचिव राजेश अग्रवाल, गोवा सरकारचे मुख्य सचिव डॉ. व्ही. कांडावेलू, राज्य दिव्यांगजन विभागाचे सचिव प्रसन्न आचार्य, गोवा राज्य दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाच्या संचालक वर्षा नाईक आणि राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त व्यवहारिक सचिव ताहा हाजिक यांच्यासह विविध अधिकाऱ्यांचीही उपस्थिती राहिली. राज्यपाल राजू म्हणाले, पणजी शहर खरोखरच जगभरा

फिरले आहे. हा रंग एकता, प्रतिष्ठा आणि समावेशाचे प्रतीक आहे. पर्पल फेस्ट हा केवळ एका उत्सवापेक्षा जास्त आहे; ही एक चळवळ आहे जी दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना सदतीभे लाभार्थी म्हणून नाही, तर अधिकारांचे धारक आहेत या विश्वासाची पुष्टी करते. समावेशन हे न्याय, समानता आणि बंधुत्वाच्या तत्त्वांवर आधारित एक संवैधानिक कर्तव्य आहे. मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. सावंत आणि गोवा सरकारच्या प्रयत्नांचे कौतुक करताना त्यांनी नमूद केले की, गोवा राज्याने सुलभता आणि सक्षमीकरणात एक राष्ट्रीय मापदंड प्रस्थापित केला आहे. त्यांनी असेही म्हटले की, या महोत्सवाने भागीदारी, जागरूकता आणि सहानुभूती वाढवली आहे, सर्वांना स्मरण, जाणीव करून दिली आहे की समावेशकता ही आपल्या हृदयातून, घरातून आणि समुदायातून सुरू झाली पाहिजे.सन्माननीय पाहुणे केरळचे राज्यपाल आर्लेकर म्हणाले पर्पल फेस्ट हा केवळ एक कार्यक्रम नाही, तो सक्षमीकरण आणि समानतेचा संदेश आहे. असे उत्सव दिव्यांग व्यक्तींमधील लपलेली प्रतिभा आणि उर्जेला बाहेर काढतात. त्यांच्या अफाट क्षमतेचे प्रदर्शन करतात. त्यांनी यावर भर दिला की, दिव्यांग व्यक्ती सहानुभूती शोधत नाहीत, तर संधी शोधतात. आणि खरा समावेश म्हणजे सर्वांसाठी समान सहभाग, आदर आणि प्रतिष्ठा सुनिश्चित करणे. या महोत्सवाचे सूत्र यश म्हणजे, ह्या महोत्सव संपल्यानंतर आपण एक नागरिक म्हणून काय करतो यावर अवलंबून आहे. प्रत्येक व्यक्तीच्या विकासासाठी आणि चमकण्यासाठी संधी आणि जगा निर्माण करून देण्याची जबाबदारी आता आपल्या प्रत्येकाच्या कृतीतून दिसणे अपेक्षित आहे.पुरुष्यमंत्री डॉ. सावंत म्हणाले, गोव्याने पुन्हा एकदा जगाला खऱ्या समावेशाचा अर्थ दाखवून दिला आहे. पर्पल फेस्ट हा सक्षमीकरण, समानता आणि संधीची चळवळ बनला आहे, जीवनाच्या सर्व स्तरातील लोकांना एकत्र आणत आहे. या महोत्सवातून उपजीविकेच्या अनेक संधी निर्माण केल्या आहेत, नवीपक्रमाला प्रेरणा दिली आहे आणि पर्पल इकॉनॉमी'ला जन्म दिला आहे, जिथे सामाजिक समावेशन आणि आर्थिक विकास हातात हात घालून चालत आहेत.



गोवा खबर / 15 hours ago

पार्किन्सन्सबाबत जागृती, साह्य करण्यासाठी महिलांचा आशादायी पुढाकार

आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट २०२५मध्ये पार्किन्सन्सबाबत जागृती आणि आवश्यक साह्य करणाऱ्या पार्किन्सन्स मित्र मंडळाच्या कार्यावर प्रकाशझोत गोवा खबर: पार्किन्सन्सच्या आजाराने भारतातील...



'पर्पल फेस्ट' केवळ फेस्टिवल नव्हे तर चळवळ

आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर : ९ ते १२ ऑक्टोबर होणाऱ्या महोत्सवाची तयारी अंतिम टप्प्यात

टीम दैनिक हेराल्ड

पणजी, दि.२ : राज्यातील दिव्यांगजनांची समावेशकता,जागतिक स्तरावरील सहभाग, रुग्णल पर्पल अम्बेसिडर आणि सर्वसमावेशकतेचा जागर यामुळे ९ ते १२ ऑक्टोबर दरम्यान गोव्यात आयोजित पर्पल फेस्ट दिव्यांगजनांसाठी महा-उत्सवठरेल. हा फेस्टिवल केवळ उत्सव राहिला नसून ती एक व्यापक स्वरूपाची राष्ट्रीय चळवळ बनल्याचे मत राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसादपावसकर यांनी व्यक्त केले आहे. या महोत्सवाच्या निमित्ताने ते बोलत होते.आयुक्त पावसकर पुढे म्हणाले, राज्यामध्ये प्रवेशसुलभता, सर्वसमावेशकता आणि परिवर्तन हे शब्दप्रयोग केवळ आश्वासन देण्यापुरते राहिलने नाहीत, तर आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टच्या प्रभावामुळे या शब्दांचे अर्थ प्रत्यक्षात अनुभवास येऊ लागले आहेत. या तिसऱ्या महोत्सवाच्या आयोजनासाठी राज्य तयारी अंतिम टप्प्यात आहे. या महोत्सवाचा व्यापक प्रभाव संपूर्ण देशभर आणि आंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तरावर पसरत असल्याचे दिसून येत आहे. सर्वांचीच उत्सुकता ताणून धरलेला हा महोत्सव आता एक सर्वसमावेशक, सर्वव्यापी चळवळीचे केंद्र बनला आहे. या महोत्सवामध्ये ३० हून अधिक देशांतील प्रतिनिधी एकत्र येतात. वंदा या महोत्सवाला सहआयोजक म्हणून सयुक्त राष्ट्र संघाचेही पाठबळ मिळाले आहे. २०२५च्या या महोत्सवात शासन समावेशनावर भर देण्यात आला असून, शहरी प्रदेशाच्या पलीकडे जात खेड्यापाड्यांमध्येही प्रवेशसुलभता आणि सक्षमीकरणबाबत विचारविनिमय होणार आहे.माननीय मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत आणि दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरण विभागाचे माननीय मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई यांच्या मार्गदर्शनाखाली आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टचे महान केवळ वार्षिक उपक्रमापुरते मर्यादित

राहिलेले नाही असेही ते म्हणाले पावसकर पुढे म्हणाले, राज्यातील प्रवेशसुलभता, जागरूकता आणि सक्षमीकरणाच्या दृष्टिकोनात बदल घडवत आहे या महोत्सवामुळे दिव्यांग व्यक्तीकरता आता, दिव्यांग नसलेल्या लोकांमध्ये जागरूकता आणि संवेदनशीलता वाढली आहे, हा मोठा व सकारात्मक बदल घडत आहे. पर्पल फेस्ट हा वर्षातील काही दिवसांपुरता उपक्रम असला तरी, दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त कार्यालयाद्वारे वर्षभर विविध प्रशिक्षण आणि संवेदनशीलता कार्यक्रम राबवले जातात. आतापर्यंत, आम्ही पर्यटन, वाहतूक, सार्वजनिक बांधकाम विभाग अशा विविध विभागांमधील विविध सरकारी संस्था, कार्यालयांमधील ५,००० हून अधिक व्यक्तींना प्रशिक्षण दिले आहे. ही प्रक्रिया सर्व दिव्यांग व्यक्तींद्वारे राबवली जातात.पर्पल फेस्ट हा केवळ एक कार्यक्रम राहिलेला नाही. तर खरा विकास हा कोणताही मागे ठेवत नाही, हा विचार दर्शवितो.ही एक चळवळ बनला आहे. गेल्या तीन वर्षांत, या महोत्सवाच्या माध्यमातून राबवलेल्या विविध उपक्रमांनी गोमंतकीयांच्या आयुष्यावर विशेष छाप पाडली आहे. बांबोळी येथील गोवा वैद्यकीय महाविद्यालयामध्ये कायमस्वरूपी पंतप्रधान दिव्यांग केंद्राची स्थापना करण्यात आली आहे. दिव्यांग व्यक्ती आणि उदेश नागरिकांना या केंद्रातून मोफत मदत आणि उपकरणे उपलब्ध केली जातात. याबाबत पावसकर म्हणाले राज्यातील ३,००० हून अधिक नागरिकांना पंतप्रधान दिव्यांग केंद्राचा लाभ झाला असून, सुमारे ३ कोटी रुपये मूल्य असलेले कृत्रिम अवयव, विविध उपकरणे लाभार्थींना वितरित करण्यात आली आहेत. आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टचे खरे यश केवळ संख्यात्मक बदलामध्ये नाही, तर ते प्रेरणा देणाऱ्या सकारात्मक बदलामध्ये आहे. या महोत्सवाच्या माध्यमातून समाजातील सर्वच क्षेत्रांमध्ये दिव्यांगजनांप्रती संवेदनशील आणि सहानुभूती वाढविण्यास प्रोत्साहन दिले जात आहे. जीवन अधिक समावेशक आणि प्रतिष्ठित बनवणारे नवीन उपक्रम राबवले जात आहेत. पर्पल फेस्ट हा केवळ चार दिवसांचा उपक्रम नाही - तो समावेशनाला दैनंदिन जीवनाचा भाग बनवण्याच्या दिशेने उचललेले एक आशादायक पाऊल आहे.

९ ते १२ ऑक्टोबर दरम्यान काय उपलब्ध असेल ?

- युनिव्हर्सल डिझाइन पॅरेडेसियन: वाहतूक, शिक्षण आणि बँकिंग अशा पायाभूत सुविधा सर्वांसाठी कसा प्रकारे सुलभ सुलभ करता येईल यावर प्रात्यक्षिक.
- डिझाइन कॉर अॅटल चॅलेंज: सार्वजनिक जागा अधिक समावेशक आणि दायरसुलभ बनविण्यासाठी विद्यार्थी आणि नवोन्मेषक व्यक्ती सोप्या, प्रभावी कल्पना विकसित करतात.
- ग्रामीण समावेशन परिषद: ग्रामीण भागातील व्यक्ती आपले अनुभव आणि नाविन्यपूर्ण कल्पना सादर करतात.
- पर्पल थिंक टँक: सर्व क्षेत्रांमध्ये युनिव्हर्सल डिझाइनचा विकास करणे आणि त्यांच्या व्यावहारिक अंमलबजावणीवर तज्ञ विचारमंथन करतात.
- पर्पल कॉन्फरन्स: शास्त्रीय धोरण, ग्रामीण समावेशन आणि समुदाय नेतृत्व अशा विविध विषयांवर मंथन होते.
- पर्पल एक्सपिरिएन्स झोन: बँकिंग, वाहतूक, शिक्षण आणि डिजिटल प्रवेशामध्ये समावेशक डिझाइनचे प्रदर्शन करणारे अनुभवक्षेत्र.
- पर्पल प्रदर्शन: दिव्यांग व्यक्तींद्वारे आणि दिव्यांग व्यक्तींसाठी बनविलेली नाविन्यपूर्ण उत्पादने, साहाय्यक साधने-उपकरणे आणि सेवा यांचे प्रदर्शन सद्यस्थितीत १०० हून अधिक स्टॉल.
- पर्पल व्हॉलेडोस्कोप: दृश्यकला, संगीत, नृत्य आणि इतर अभिव्यक्तीमक प्रकारांद्वारे सर्जनशीलतेचा सोहळा.
- पर्पल रेन: लोकप्रिय कलाकारांसह दिव्यांग व्यक्तींद्वारे कला सादरीकरण.
- पर्पल पान: समावेशक खुल्या रात्रे, निसर्गरम्य ब्लू माइल, एन्टर्टेनमेंट नाईट आणि इन सर्कल.
- पर्पल स्पोर्ट्स: समावेशक क्रीडा स्पर्धा, ज्यामध्ये महिलांच्या क्रिकेट सामन्याचा समावेश आहे.
- पर्पल स्ट्रीट: संगीत, कलाशिल्प, सर्जनशील कार्यशाळा आणि सार्वजनिक ठिकाणी कला सादरीकरणाचे कार्यक्रम याद्वारे व्यापक समावेशकतेला प्रोत्साहन दिले जाते.

आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट गोवा २०२५ चे आकर्षण

- जागतिक व्याप्ती: सहआयोजक म्हणून संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघासह ३०हून अधिक देशांचे प्रतिनिधी.
- ग्रामीण समावेश : प्रथमच पर्पल राजदूत म्हणून ग्रामीण भागातील प्रतिनिधींची निवड केली असून त्या तळागाळातील दृष्टिकोन सादर करतात.
- साहसी खेळ: सहभागी दिव्यांग व्यक्तींसाठी स्कूबा डायव्हिंग, पॅरासेलिंग आणि बरेच काही.
- सहाय्यक तंत्रज्ञान: स्मार्टफ्रू वीकन्स, डिजिटल ॲक्सेसिबिलिटी झोन, रिअल-टाइम स्पीच-टू-टेक्स्ट, स्मृआय कोड-आधारित नेव्हिगेशन.
- सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम: पर्पल रेन कॉन्सर्ट, कला प्रदर्शन, समावेशक फिल्मट प्रदर्शन
- व्यापक प्रवेशसुलभता: पणजी शहरात १५०हून अधिक सार्वजनिक ठिकाणांना प्रवेशसुलभ बनवले गेले आहे; व्हीलचेअर-ॲक्सेसिबल रिक्षा राज्यभरात सुरू करण्यात आल्या आहेत.



'सायकल प्युअर अगरबत्ती'न 125 फूट उंचायेची उजवात साकारून ती पेटयली

भांगरभूंय | खबरांमेज

पणजी : भारतांतले अग्रगण्य पूजासहित्य ब्रँड 'सायकल प्युअर अगरबत्ती'न आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट गोवा 2025 त इतिहास रचलो. तांणी 125 फूट उंचायेची उजवात साकारून ती पेटयली. ही आयजयेरची सगल्यांत उंच आनी समावेशक अशी निर्मिती थारल्या.

ह्या वेळार मुख्यमंत्री श्री प्रमोद सावंत, श्री स्वामी ब्रह्मचारी कमलेश्वरानंद, सुभाष फळदेसाय (समाजीक न्याय, पियेवपाचें उदक, दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरण, नंयो आनी उदका येरादारी मंत्री) सदानंद तानावडे (खासदार, राज्यसभा), वर्षा नायक (संचालक, दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरण विभाग, गोंय), प्रसन्न आचार्य, आयएएस, उमेश डी - प्रॉडिक्शन, एन. रेगा राव अँड सन्स प्रा. लि., सुनिल देवधर - समाजसेवक, डॉ. दानिश, (ब्रँड पार्टनर, एन. रेगा राव अँड सन्स प्रा. लि.) आनी तज्ञा हाझीक, सचीव, गोंय राज्य दिव्यांग आयोग हांची उपस्थिती आसली.

ही उजवात 20 कुशल कारागिरांनी 26 दिसां भितर साकारल्या. सायकल प्युअरच्या खास सुगंध मिश्रणान आनी शाश्वत तंत्रज्ञानान ती तयार केल्या अशें किरण रेगा, संचालक, एन. रेगा राव अँड सन्स प्रा. लि. हांणी सांगलें. उजवातीच्या तींकार ज्योत पेटयतकच चाहार गोड, जांबळ्या रेगाच्या सुगंधान परमळळे.

आमी जांभळ्या कोंबी आनी शंखपुष्पा ह्या सैमीक घटकां सयत पारंपरीक रेग वापरून एक उपचारक आनी प्रेरणादायी सुगंध निर्माण केलां अशें अर्जुन रेगा, वेवस्थापकीय संचालक, एन. रेगा राव अँड सन्स प्रा. लि. हांणी सांगलें.

पर्पलमुळे विशेष मुलांची कला जागतिक स्तरावर

बाबी मलिक : गोवा स्पेशल स्कूल असोसिएशनच्या स्टॉलला उदंड प्रतिसाद

पणजी : पुढारी वृत्तसेवा

राज्यात कार्यरत असलेल्या विशेष मुलांच्या शाळांमध्ये व्होकेशनल कोर्स अंतर्गत विविध वस्तू बनवण्याचे प्रशिक्षण दिले जाते. दिव्यांग विद्यार्थ्यांनी बनवलेल्या या वस्तूंचे ठिकठिकाणी प्रदर्शनही भरवले जाते. मात्र, या स्थानिक प्रदर्शनापेक्षा आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलमध्ये दिव्यांग विद्यार्थ्यांना जागतिक स्तरावर त्यांच्या त्यांची कलाकुसर दाखवण्याची संधी मिळाली. ज्यामुळे त्यांचा आत्मविश्वास वाढीस लागला, असे प्रतिपादन आस्था आनंद विशेष शाळेतील व्होकेशनल सहायक शिक्षक बाबी मलिक यांनी केले.

यंदाच्या आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलमध्ये विविध स्टॉल्सपैकी गोवा स्पेशल स्कूल असोसिएशनच्या अंतर्गत विशेष शाळांचे स्टॉल्स लावण्यात आले होते. दिवाळीनिमित्त आकाश कंदील, विविध रंगी दिवे, आकर्षक पणत्या, तसेच कलाकुसर केलेल्या अनेक वस्तू विक्रीस उपलब्ध होत्या. या स्टॉलला देशातील प्रतिनिधींसह जगभरातून आलेल्या सहभागींनी देखील भेट देऊन दिव्यांग विद्यार्थ्यांच्या कामाचे कौतुक केले.

या स्टॉल्सवर विक्री केल्या जाणाऱ्या सर्व गोष्टींमधून मिळणारा नफा १०० टक्के विद्यार्थ्यांना दिला जातो. १८ वर्षांवरील दिव्यांगांसाठी मिळकतीचा हा एक महत्त्वाचा मार्ग असल्याने अशी प्रदर्शने दिव्यांग विद्यार्थ्यांच्या फायद्याची आणि महत्त्वाची असतात, असे मलिक यांनी नमूद केले. दरवेळी प्रत्येक सणाच्या आधी राज्यात ठिकठिकाणी शाळांतर्फे अशी प्रदर्शने भरवली जातात. मात्र जो प्रतिसाद आणि ख्याती आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टिवलमुळे या विद्यार्थ्यांना मिळाली, तितकी स्थानिक पातळीवर मिळत नाही.



पणजी : महोत्सवातील विशेष मुलांच्या शाळांचे स्टॉल्स.

आत्मविश्वास कायम ठेवा : मलिक

पर्पल फेस्टिव्हल आयोजित करणारे गोवा हे एकमेव राज्य असल्याने हळूहळू दिव्यांग विद्यार्थी आणि नागरिकांबाबत जनजागृतीत वाढ होत आहे. राज्य सरकारच्या या उपक्रमाला आता केवळ देशभरातीलच नव्हे तर जगभरातील प्रतिनिधी आणि सरकार हातमिळवणी करत आहेत. यामुळे राज्यातील दिव्यांग विद्यार्थ्यांना त्यांचा विकास साधण्यात मदत होईल. मात्र विद्यार्थ्यांनी आत्मविश्वास खचू न देणे हे अधिक महत्त्वाचे आहे. अनेक विद्यार्थी हे काही काळानंतर आपला आत्मविश्वास गमावतात असे दिसून येते, यासाठी पालक आणि त्यांचे काळजीवाहू असणाऱ्यांनी भक्कम भूमिका निभावणे गरजेचे असल्याचे बाबी मलिक यांनी पुढारीशी बोलताना अधोरेखित केल

Goemkarponn

08 Oct 2025 - Page 6

International Purple Fest Goa'25 Champions Inclusion with 21 PwD Ambassadors

■ 21 Ambassadors, including Goa's Sadiya Bandodkar, Sakshi Kale and Xerif Shaik, to Champion International Purple Fest'25.

Panjim: The International Purple Fest Goa 2025, taking place from October 9–12, is set to spotlight inclusion like never before. The festival will feature 21 Purple Ambassadors representing every disability category recognised under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, with a special focus on spinal cord injury. Among the ambassadors are three from Goa: Sadiya Bandodkar, Sakshi Kale, and Xerif Shaik bringing local voices to this global platform.

Minister for Social Welfare Subhash Phal Dessai lauded the selection, saying, "These ambassadors reflect the true spirit of Purple Fest 2025. Their journeys from sport to fashion, education to advocacy show that inclusion is empowerment. Goa is proud to see its own voices represented on the international stage." State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar highlighted



the ambassadors' leadership, noting that they demonstrate how persons with disabilities are not just participants but change-makers.

"Through their lived experiences, Purple Fest continues to show how accessibility can be implemented in every village and town, driving positive reforms nationwide," he said. The ambassadors bring diverse expertise and experiences. From Goa, Sadiya Bandodkar, a hearing-impaired entrepreneur, has made a mark in fashion, running Goa's first deaf-led fashion stall and placing as 2nd runner-up at the Mrs. India Deaf Fashion Contest 2023. Xerif Shaik, living with severe haemophilia, has 25 years of experience in electronics, IT, and university administration and actively contributes to community education and outreach. Low-vision para-athlete Sakshi Kale has represented India internationally, including at the World Para Athletics Championships in Paris 2025, and advocates for adaptive coaching and inclusive sports infrastructure.

Beyond Goa, ambassadors from across India represent leadership in sport, art, health, policy, advocacy, and entrepreneurship. Highlights include Danish Mahajan, a visually impaired broadcaster from Punjab who runs India's first disability-led community radio, Radio Udaan; Suvarna Raj, a Delhi-based international para-athlete and disability rights activist who founded the Para Sports Excellence Center; Pramodini Roul, an acid attack survivor from Odisha working on child protection and advocacy; Mark Dharmai, a Mumbai-based para-athlete mentoring persons with dwarfism; Jyoti Sinha, a self-taught Madhubani artist from Bihar; Dr. Aditya Lohiya, a doctor with cerebral palsy advocating inclusive medical education; Khushi Ganatra, a wheelchair athlete from Mumbai promoting vocational training; and Dr. Preethi Shrinivasan, a spinal cord injury survivor who founded India's first integrated spinal rehabilitation centre. Other ambassadors bring expertise in storytelling, inclusive media, environmental action, mental health, disability research, and creative livelihoods, collectively embodying resilience, innovation, and leadership. The festival will highlight how accessibility can be integrated into everyday life, from education and sports to culture and public policy.

True development means inclusion, says Sawant at Purple Fest finale

NT Reporter
Panaji

A developed society is one that gives equal space to everyone, said Chief Minister Pramod Sawant during the closing ceremony of the International Purple Fest in Panaji on Sunday. Emphasising the importance of sustained inclusivity, he said, "True development means giving equal space to everyone, and the spirit of inclusion must continue long after this event ends."

Reflecting on the success of the festival, the Chief Minister said, "Over the past few days, we have shown the world what true inclusion looks like. This festival was about empowerment, where every individual found a platform to express their talent, share their story, and inspire others."

He said the spirit of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" was felt throughout the event and described the fest as the beginning of a larger movement for inclusion across the country and beyond. "It's about seeing the world with our hearts, believing in abilities, and recognising that every challenge brings new possibilities," he said.



It's about seeing the world with our hearts, believing in abilities, and recognising that every challenge brings new possibilities, said Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.

As Education Minister, he reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that every child and youth in India has equal access to learning and growth. "Education, paired with empowerment, builds respect and independence. This is the foundation of inclusion," he said. Minister for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Subhash Phal Dessai, called the festival "a celebration of inclusion, the voice of change, and the spirit of a new India—confident, compassionate, and inclusive." He said that Goa proved inclusion is not charity but equity, empowerment, celebration, and collaboration.

"For the first time in India, we launched the Para High Federation," he said, adding that accessibility must be seen not as a cost but as an asset. "The Purple Economy reminds us that persons with disabilities are already contributing—innovating, inspiring, and leading," he said.

Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy, Shripad Naik, also praised the state's efforts, saying, "Goa has been at the heart of representing inclusion, accessibility, and empowerment. Purple Fest has grown into a movement—a celebration of diversity rooted in trust and collective responsibility."

MEDIA CLIPPINGS

छायांकित पर्पल फेस्ट....





१) पणजी : दिव्यांगांसाठी नव्याने तयार करण्यात आलेली इलेक्ट्रिक बाईक पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलमध्ये प्रदर्शनासाठी पुढील ६ महिन्यांत लाँच झाल्यानंतर लाभार्थ्यांना ती घेता येणार आहे.
२) 'मिरॅकल ऑन द व्हील'' ग्रुपच्या कलाकारांचे आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलमध्ये दिमाखदार नृत्य सादरीकरण. ३) गोव्यातील दिव्यांग कलाकारांचा आकर्षक नृत्याविष्कार.





१) पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलमध्ये गोव्यातील विविध प्रसिद्ध मंदिरे आणि स्थळाची प्रतिकृती ठेवण्यात आली होती. त्यापैकी श्री सप्तकोटेश्वर मंदिराची प्रतिकृती. २) फेस्टिव्हलमध्ये ठेवण्यात आलेली इतिहासाचा वारसा सांगणारी रेईश मागूश किल्ल्याची प्रतिकृती. ३) यंदाच्या फेस्टिव्हलमध्ये २५० हून अधिक उभारलेले स्टॉल्स.

Inclusion a constitutional obligation not only act of kindness: Governor

NT Reporter
Panaji



He called for collective efforts to build an India where accessibility and equality become the norm.

Stating that inclusion is not an act of kindness, it is a constitutional obligation, Governor Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju during the closing ceremony of the International Purple Fest held in Panaji on Sunday. He called for collective efforts to build an India where accessibility and equality become the norm in every institution and every heart.

"Let us ensure that the rights of all people continue to shine in our schools and in our society," the Governor said, adding that the Purple Fest is not just a celebration but a manifestation of vision and purpose. "Persons with disabilities are not to be pitied or excluded. They are equal citizens, entitled to full rights, opportunities, and representation in all areas of life."

He emphasised that inclusion must go beyond policy and science. "Leadership in inclusion is about vision and values. Your warmth and compassion showed that inclusion is not just a principle, but a practice of empathy and action," he said.

Highlighting the role of society, the Governor stated that while governments and laws are important, the real soul of inclusion lies within people. "Each of us—as family members, teachers, professionals, and citizens—has a role to play in building a world where diversity is respected and everyone gets to participate equally."

पार्किन्सनमुळे त्यांनी पती गमावला, मात्र जिद्द नाही सोडली

पर्पल फेस्टमध्ये पार्किन्सन मित्र मंडळातर्फे जनजागृती; सरकारला आवाहन

पणजी : पुढारी वृत्तसेवा

सरकारने नमूद केलेल्या २१ दिव्यांगत्व प्रकारांमध्ये मोडणारा पार्किन्सन हा आजार लगेच लक्षात न येणारा आणि न बरा होणारा आहे. कालानुरूप वाढणाऱ्या या दिव्यांगत्वामध्ये आपण केवळ त्या व्यक्तीचा त्रास कमी करण्यासाठी आणि त्यांना आनंदी ठेवण्यासाठी प्रयत्न करू शकतो. पार्किन्सन मित्र मंडळ चालवणाऱ्या आम्हा आठ महिलांचे पती याच आजाराने हे जग सोडून गेले. पण आम्ही खचलो नाही. इतर कोणी यामुळे त्रस्त होऊ नये यासाठी आम्ही कार्यरत असून, पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलमुळे गोव्यातली याची जनजागृती करण्याची संधी आम्हाला मिळाली, असे प्रतिपादन मंडळाच्या पदाधिकारी विजयालक्ष्मी रेवणकर यांनी केले.

महोत्सवात आयोजित पत्रकार परिषदेत त्या बोलत होत्या. त्या म्हणाल्या की, महाराष्ट्रातील पुणे स्थित आमच्या मंडळातर्फे गोव्यातील तीन पार्किन्सन असलेल्यांना सहकार्य करण्याचे काम सुरू आहे. या आजारात केवळ शारीरिक नव्हे तर मानसिक पातळीवरही मोठा संघर्ष रुग्णासह त्याच्या कुटुंबीयांना सहन करावा लागतो. मात्र, तसे पाहता अजूनही या आजाराबाबत ठोस माहिती नसल्याने अनेक जणांचा संघर्ष वाढतो. हा आजार बरा न होणारा असल्यामुळे ज्यांना पार्किन्सन आहे, त्यांच्यासाठी विविध छंदांचे वर्ग, डान्स क्लासेस, चित्रकला सत्रे, अशा विविध शिबिरांचे-सत्रांचे आयोजन करणे गरजेचे आहे. जितके होईल तितके या दिव्यांग व्यक्तींशी बोलल्याने त्यांच्यातील चेतना प्रभावित होऊन ते काही काळ आपल्या आजाराला विसरतात, ज्यामुळे त्याच्या बाबीस रोख लागू शकते.



पणजी : पत्रकार परिषदेत बोलताना पार्किन्सन मित्र मंडळाच्या पदाधिकारी विजयालक्ष्मी रेवणकर.

गोव्यात जनजागृतीची गरज!

गोव्यातील पार्किन्सनने त्रस्त असलेल्यांना भेट देण्यासाठी आम्ही अधूनमधून इथे येत असतो. त्यावरून लक्षात आले की, राज्यात आजाराबाबत जनजागृतीची कमी आहे. यासाठी राज्य सरकारने पुढाकार घेऊन आजाराबाबत गांभीर्याने लोकांना माहिती आणि मदतीचा हात देणे गरजेचे आहे.

माणसाच्या हालचालींवर परिणाम करतो

पार्किन्सन ह्या मध्यवर्ती मज्जासंस्थेचा (सेंट्रल नर्व्हस सिस्टीम) एक विकार असतो, जो माणसाच्या हालचालींवर परिणाम करतो. मेंदूतील मज्जातंतू पेशींना झालेल्या हानीमुळे डोपामाइनची पातळी कमी होते. यामुळे व्यक्ती हळूहळू स्वत:ला एकटे, सर्वांपासून दूर करू लागते. पार्किन्सनची लक्षणे नसली तरी बहुतेकदा एक हात थरथरण्याने सुरुवात होते. हळूहळू शरीराची हालचाल मंदावते आणि संपूर्ण संतुलन बिघडते.

१२५ फूट उंच | पणजीतील आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टमध्ये उपक्रम

सायकल प्युअरने साकारली जगातील सर्वांत उंच अगरबत्ती

न्यूज डेस्क। गोवन वार्ता

पणजी : भारतातील अग्रगण्य पूजासाहित्य ब्रँड असलेल्या 'सायकल प्युअर अगरबत्ती'ने आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट गोवा २०२५ मध्ये १२५ फूट उंचीची गहाकाय अगरबत्ती प्रज्वलित करून इतिहास रचला आहे. ही आजवरची सर्वांत उंच आणि समावेशनाचा संदेश देणारी निर्मिती ठरली आहे. समावेशन आणि सुलभतेचा जागतिक उत्सव असलेल्या या सोहळ्यात प्रथमच अशा प्रकारची विशाल अगरबत्ती प्रज्वलित करण्यात आली.

या सोहळ्याला मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत, श्री स्वामी ब्रह्मचारी कमलेश्वरानंद, समाजकल्याण मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, राज्यसभा खासदार सदानंद तानावडे, दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरण विभागाच्या संचालक वर्षा नाईक, आयएएस प्रसन्न आचार्य, एन. रंगा राव अँड सन्स प्रा. लि.चे प्रॉडक्शन उमेश डी. सनाजसेवक सुनील देवधर, एन. रंगा रावचे ब्रँड पार्टनर डॉ. दानिश आणि राज्य दिव्यांग आयोगाचे सचिव ताहा हाजीक उपस्थित होते.

या अगरबत्तीच्या निर्मितीबद्दल माहिती देताना एन. रंगा रावचे संचालक किरण रंगा यांनी सांगितले की, ही अगरबत्ती २० कुशल कारागिरांनी २६ दिवसांत साकारली आहे. अगरबत्तीच्या टोकावर ज्योत प्रज्वलित होताच परिसर गोड, जांभळ्या छटेच्या सुगंधाने दरवळला. हा सुगंध वृद्धता, आनंद आणि [illegible] संदेश देणारा होता.



आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टमध्ये सायकल प्युअर अगरबत्ती प्रज्वलित करताना मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत. सोबत श्री स्वामी ब्रह्मचारी कमलेश्वरानंद, मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, राज्यसभा खासदार सदानंद तानावडे व इतर.

पर्पल अगरबत्ती समावेशनाच्या आत्म्याचा उत्सव

एन. रंगा राव अँड सन्सचे व्यवस्थापकीय संचालक अर्जुन रंगा म्हणाले, सायकल प्युअरसाठी सुगंध ही फक्त प्रार्थनेची गोष्ट नाही, तर ती आठवण, श्रद्धा आणि पुनर्जन्म आहे. ही १२५ फूट 'पर्पल अगरबत्ती' 'जगात प्रकाश पेरणाऱ्या प्रत्येक व्यक्तीला समर्पित आहे. आम्ही जांभळा कोबी आणि शंखपुष्पा या नैसर्गिक घटकांसह पारंपरिक रंग वापरून एक उपचारक आणि प्रेरणादायी सुगंध निर्माण केला आहे, जो समावेशनाच्या आत्म्याचा उत्सव साजरा करतो. पर्पल फेस्ट ही एक चळवळ आहे आणि तिचा भाग बनण्याचा आम्हाला अभिमान आहे.

epaper.thegoanews

पर्पल फेस्तमधून दिव्यांगांना व्यासपीठ

मुख्यमंत्री प्रमोद सावंत : आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलचा उत्साहात समारोप; स्पर्धांचे बक्षीस वितरण

लोकमत न्यूज नेटवर्क

पणजी : राज्यात आयोजित केलेल्या पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलमधून दिव्यांगांना हक्काचे व्यासपीठ आणि पुढे जाण्याची संधी मिळाली आहे. या महोत्सवामुळे गोव्याचे नाव जागतिक पातळीवर गेले आहे, असे मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत यांनी सांगितले. येथे आयोजित केलेल्या आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलचा समारोप रविवारी झाला. यावेळी राज्यपाल पुसापती अशोक गजपती राजू, केंद्रीय राज्यमंत्री श्रीपाद नाईक, दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरणमंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, केरळचे राज्यपाल राजेंद्र आर्लेकर, खासदार सदानंद तानावडे, आमदार उल्हास तुयेकर, आमदार राजेश फळदेसाई उपस्थित होते.

मुख्यमंत्री म्हणाले, पर्पल महोत्सवातून दिव्यांगजनांच्या कलागुणांना वाव मिळत आहे. त्यांना कलेच्या माध्यमातून जागतिकस्तरावर नाव करण्याची संधी मिळाली आहे. कोणीही दिव्यांग व्यक्ती हक्कापासून वंचित राहू नये यासाठी केंद्र तसेच राज्य सरकार विविध योजना राबवत आहेत.



आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलच्या समारोप सोहळ्याला उपस्थित मुख्यमंत्री प्रमोद सावंत, राज्यपाल पुसापती अशोक गजपती राजू, केरळचे राज्यपाल राजेंद्र आर्लेकर, दिव्यांगजन सक्षमीकरणमंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, खासदार सदानंद तानावडे, आमदार उल्हास तुयेकर, आमदार राजेश फळदेसाई व इतर.

'गोवा देशासाठी आदर्श ठरेल'

१. येथील गोवा मनोरंजन सोसायटी परिसरात भरविण्यात आलेल्या 'इंटरनॅशनल पर्पल फेस्ट गोवा २०२५' मधील विविध स्टॉल्सना मुख्यमंत्री सावंत यांनी रविवारी समारोपाच्या वेळी भेट दिली.

२. त्यांनी विविध स्वयंसेवी संस्था, सरकारी खाती आणि उद्योजकांनी उभारलेल्या स्टॉल्सची माहिती घेतली व दिव्यांग बांधवांच्या कौशल्याचे कौतुक केले.

३. पर्पल फेस्ट' हा समावेशक समाज निर्माण करण्याच्या दिशेने एक महत्त्वपूर्ण उपक्रम असून गोवा देशासाठी आदर्श ठरेल, असे मुख्यमंत्री म्हणाले.

विविध देशांतील प्रतिनिधींचा सहभाग

या महोत्सवात देश-विदेशातील प्रतिनिधींनी सहभाग घेतला होता. दिव्यांगांसाठी विविध स्पर्धा तसेच मनोरंजनाचे कार्यक्रम आयोजित केले होते. विविध देशांतून आलेल्या दिव्यांग कलाकारांनी सादरीकरण केले. विविध स्पर्धांमधील विजेत्यांना मान्यवरांच्या हस्ते बक्षिसे देण्यात आली. फेस्टिव्हलमध्ये दिव्यांग व्यक्तींच्या हक्कांविषयी जनजागृती, सक्षमीकरण व सहभाग सुनिश्चित करण्यासाठी विविध कार्यशाळा, प्रदर्शने झाली.

मुख्यमंत्र्यांकडून मंत्री फळदेसाईंचे कौतुक

गेले चार दिवस पर्पल फेस्टिव्हलमध्ये काम करून सर्व उपक्रम, कार्यक्रमांचे यशस्वी आयोजन केल्याबद्दल मुख्यमंत्री सावंत यांनी मंत्री फळदेसाई यांचे कौतुक केले. मंत्री फळदेसाई यांनी एवढ्या मोठा कार्यक्रमाची जबाबदारी स्वीकारत आंतरराष्ट्रीय दर्जाचा कार्यक्रम चांगल्याप्रकारे करून दाखवला. राज्य दिव्यांगजन आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर व इतर अधिकाऱ्यांनीही चांगले काम केले, असेही मुख्यमंत्री म्हणाले.

The Waves Spoke Freedom as Purple Fest Participants Embraced Goa's Waters

With adaptive infrastructure and trained support teams, Purple Fest has redefined how Persons with Disabilities (PwD's) engage with mainstream adventure sports.

At the National Institute of Water Sports in Caranzalem, Taleigao a quiet revolution unfolds. The sound of waves mixes with laughter and cheers as participants with disabilities take to the waters, parasailing, jet skiing, and scuba diving, as part of the International Purple Fest 2025.

Of course, it was all about adventure, but it also shifted the focus on accessibility. With structured safety measures and trained adaptive support teams, the initiative positions adventure sports as an inclusive experience, not an exclusive thrill reserved for a few.

Unlike traditional accessibility drives that focus solely on infrastructure, this experience champions active participation. Adaptive harnesses, accessible ramps, and specialised briefing protocols ensure participants are not merely accommodated but empowered to engage independently.

Minister for Social Welfare Subhash Phal Dessai, who oversees the activity, calls it a defining moment for inclusive tourism.

"No one imagined that persons with disabilities would go scuba diving or parasailing. Today, with proper infrastructure and intent, it has been made possible. We want Goa to stand as a model for inclusive tourism where adventure is within reach for everyone," Minister for Social Welfare Subhash Phal Dessai said.

For many participants, it is their first taste of adventure sports. With supervisory instructors providing technical guidance without curbing the excitement, the atmosphere reflects that of any mainstream water sports arena: confident, energetic, and free from overprotection or spectacle.

The cast of the hit Bollywood film 'Sitaare Zameen Par', were present at the venue joined the participants on the water and in conversation.

"This experience was beyond what we expected. We completed parasailing and jet skiing for the first time, and it felt like being part of a regular adventure activity, which is exactly how it should be," said Naman Mishra who has acted in the movie/

Among the many first timers was a 14-year-old Prathamesh Sinha. A motivational speaker and brand ambassador of ALIMCO and Thinkerbell, he is attending this year's International Purple Fest 2025 as a youth representative. "This is my first time doing water sports," he says, overjoyed. "The accessibility here is practical and not just symbolic. The systems put in place allowed us to participate and not just be mere spectators."

The adventure sports activity is executed in coordination with the Tinkesh Ability Foundation, which adapts equipment and trains the support crew to ensure inclusive engagement.

"We designed this initiative to remove typical barriers to adventure sports. With hundreds already participating, this is just the starting point," says Sydenstrica Gautam, Founder and Chairperson of the foundation.

As the session ended, what stood out was not the novelty of the event, but the normalcy with which participants could engage, laughing, competing and celebrating without any fear.

The true success of this initiative lies in its approach, not its spectacle. By prioritising practical accessibility, independent participation, and proper support systems, International Purple Fest 2025 has paved the way for making adventure sports truly inclusive. This model shows that with planning, intent, and infrastructure, persons with disabilities can fully engage in activities previously considered out of reach, setting a benchmark for inclusive tourism and adaptive recreation beyond the shores of Goa.



The Navhind Times

Purple Fest to take inclusion beyond urban areas with village voices

Rural Purple Ambassadors to put their stories, struggles and ideas in focus

NT Reporter
Panaji



More than 1,300 people will receive aids and appliances worth nearly Rs 2 crore. *(File photo)*

For the first time, voices from Goa's villages will lead the conversation on disability and inclusion at the International Purple Fest Goa 2025, said State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Guruprasad Pawaskar.

"This year the festival will feature Purple Ambassadors from rural areas, bringing stories, struggles, and ideas from the heart of the country. They will show that people with disabilities in villages also have dreams, talents, and solutions. Their presence shows an important truth: inclusion must reach every corner, not just cities but villages and rural communities too," he said.

Purple Fest will be held from October 9 to 12. The festival, supported by the United Nations, will host participants from over 30 countries.

"This year PwDs will get to try adventure sports like scuba diving and parasailing for the first time. This shows that accessibility is possible not just on land, but also in water and air," Pawaskar said.

The festival will feature conferences, exhibitions, film screenings, music concerts, art shows, and sports — all designed for full accessibility. The venue will be equipped with Bluetooth beacons for indoor navigation, speech-to-text services, audio descriptions for the visually impaired, and QR code-based information.

More than 1,300 people will receive aids and appliances worth nearly Rs 2 crore. Accessible vans will provide transport, 150 public places across Goa have been made accessible, and wheelchair-friendly rickshaws are being introduced.

Special attractions include Purple Rain concerts, Purple Street performances, and Purple Kaleidoscope art shows, along with spaces like the Universal Design Pavilion and Purple Experience Zone. The Design for All Challenge will see students and innovators present inclusive solutions.

"From cricket matches and Zumba sessions to drum circles, cruise rides, and astronomy walks, there is something for everyone," said Pawaskar. "But in the end, the biggest success of Purple Fest is not the number of events or people attending. It is the change in thinking. Society is slowly becoming more open, more caring, and more ready to build a world where everyone can live with dignity — whether in a big city or a small village."

अनुभवला समुद्र किनारा



पणजीत आयोजित पर्पल महोत्सवानिमित्त मिरामार समुद्र किनाऱ्यावर दिव्यांग व्यक्तींना जाता यावे, याकरिता विशेष रॅम्प तयार करण्यात आला आहे. त्यामुळे महोत्सवात सहभागी झालेल्या अनेक प्रतिनिधींना समुद्र जवळून पाहण्याची संधी मिळाली. समुद्र किनाऱ्यावरील क्षण अनुभवताना छत्तीसगड येथील एक प्रतिनिधी. छाया : गणेश शेटकर

दिव्यांगांना सहानुभूती नको, संधी हवी

केरळचे राज्यपाल राजेंद्र आर्लेकर यांचे प्रतिपादन, आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्तचा उत्साहात समारोप

प्रतिनिधी
पणजी



पणजी : येथील आयनॉक्स परिसरात आयोजित करण्यात आलेल्या दिव्यांग महोत्सवाच्या समारोप कार्यक्रमात कलारंग सादर करताना विविध दिव्यांग संस्थांचे कलाकार.

गेल्या चार-पाच दिवसांपासून राजधानी पणजीसह राज्यातील इतर काही ठिकाणी चालू असलेल्या आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ताचा काल रविवारी समारोप झाला. हा महोत्सव म्हणजे केवळ कार्यक्रम नव्हे तर त्यातून दिव्यांगांसाठी सशक्तीकरण आणि समानता हा संदेश गेला आहे. असे महोत्सव, उपक्रम त्यांच्यासाठी आवश्यक आहेत आणि ते पुढील महोत्सवापर्यंत सातत्याने झाले पाहिजेत. दिव्यांगांना सहानुभूती नको तर संधी, व्यासपीठाची गरज आहे. त्यांचा सन्मान, आदर झाला पाहिजे, असे प्रतिपादन केरळचे राज्यपाल राजेंद्र आर्लेकर यांनी केले.

महोत्सव समारोपासाठी राज्यसभा खासदार सदानंद शेट तानावडे, पुनायटेड नेशन्सचे शॉबी शार्प, दिव्यांग आयोगाचे आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर, पणजीचे महापौर रोहीत मोन्सेरात, केंद्रीय दिव्यांग मंत्रालयाचे सचिव राजेश अगरवाल, मुख्य सचिव कांदावेलू, गोवा दिव्यांग खाते सचिव प्रसन्ना आचार्य, खात्याच्या संचालिका वर्षा नाईक आणि इतर मान्यवरांची उपस्थिती होती. दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरण खात्याचेमंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई यांनी प्रास्ताविक आणि सर्वांचे स्वागत केले. त्यांनी महोत्सवासाठी काम केलेल्या सर्वांचे आभार मानले. शेवटी सादर करण्यात आल्यानंतर महोत्सव विविध करमणूक मनोरंजन कार्यक्रम संपुष्टात आला.

दिव्यांगांचा आत्मविश्वास वाढविण्यास मदत : मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत म्हणाले की, या महोत्सवाने देश-परदेशातील दिव्यांगांना एकत्र आणण्याचे काम गोव्याने बजावले आहे. त्यातूनच जनतेचा दृष्टीकोन बदलणार आहे. दिव्यांगांना आत्मविश्वास देऊन स्वतंत्रपणे कामे करण्याचे स्वातंत्र्य या महोत्सवातून लाभते तसेच त्यांचे कला-गुण विकसित होऊन ते जनतेसमोर येतात हेच मोठे यश त्यांच्यासाठी असल्याचे डॉ. सावंत यांनी सांगितले.



गोव्याने जगासमोर निर्माण केला आदर्श!



गोव्याचे राज्यपाल पुसापती अशोक गजपती राजू यांनी त्यावेळी बोलताना सांगितले की, पर्पल महोत्सवामुळे पणजी शहराला खरोखरच पर्पल साज चढला आहे. हा महोत्सव म्हणजे एक चळवळ असून त्यातून दिव्यांगाना त्यांचे अधिकार, हक्क गाजविण्याची, कला सादर करण्याची संधी मिळते. या महोत्सवातून गोव्याने देशासह जगासाठी एक आदर्श निर्माण केला असून इतर राज्यांना उदाहरण घालून दिल्याचे राज्यपालांनी नमूद केले.

Goa sets example in disability inclusion at Purple Fest 2025

Team Herald

PANJIM: The third edition of the International Purple Fest 2025 concluded in Panjim with an inspiring call to continue building an inclusive and equitable society for persons with disabilities. The festival was organised by the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and United Nations India. It brought together dignitaries, performers, and delegates from across India and abroad.

Chief guest and Governor of Goa, Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, praised the festival for transforming



Panjim into a "city of inclusion," noting that it symbolised unity, dignity, and empowerment. "Persons with disabilities are not recipients of charity, but holders of rights," he said, commending the State Government and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant for setting a national example in accessibility and empowerment.

Guest of honour, Rajendra Arlekar, Governor of Kerala, described the fest as "a message of empowerment and equality," emphasising that persons with disabilities seek opportunities, not sympathy.

The four-day celebration featured cultural performances, workshops, and interactive zones designed to promote empowerment and opportunity. Social Welfare Minister Subhash PhalDessai described the event as "the heartbeat of inclusion," showcasing Goa's leadership in fostering collaboration, creativity, and compassion.

The closing ceremony honoured 21 Purple Ambassadors and launched the Purple Newsletter, followed by vibrant performances by Disability Alliance, Victory Arts Foundation, Miracle on Wheels, and others.

The final day's convention, "Strengthening the Rural Disability Ecosystem & Disability in CSR," curated by Tata Steel Foundation, emphasized inclusive development in rural India. CEO Sourav Roy noted that "a rural India of inclusion is already a movement in motion," while Guruprasad Gaonkar called for stronger grassroots networks.

The International Purple Fest 2025 ended on a hopeful note, reaffirming that inclusion is not a one-time celebration but a continuous collective commitment to equality and empowerment.

O Heraldo Edition
'D Oct, 2025 Page No.5



International Purple Fest'25 Concludes with Strong Commitment to Inclusive Education and Employment







Team Goemkarponn

PANAJI: The third edition of International Purple Fest 2025 wrapped up in Goa, celebrating the state's growing Purple Movement as a national example of accessibility, empowerment, and equality for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The festival was organized by the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and United Nations India. The closing ceremony featured key leaders including Governor of Goa Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Governor of Kerala Rajendra Arlekar, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, Union Minister Shripad Naik, and Goa's Minister for Social Welfare Subhash Phal Dessai. The Governor of Goa praised the festival as a symbol of unity and inclusion, stressing that persons with disabilities are rights holders, not charity recipients. The Governor of Kerala highlighted the importance of providing opportunities rather than sympathy, while the Chief Minister noted the growth of a "Purple Economy" where inclusion supports economic progress. Over four days, the fest showcased workshops, cultural events, and discussions focused on empowerment and inclusion. A special convention by Tata Steel Foundation emphasized extending disability initiatives to rural areas, ensuring no one is left behind.

The final day also featured a session on Parkinson's disease awareness, highlighting the need for stronger support systems. Twenty-one Purple Ambassadors were honored, and the festival closed with vibrant cultural performances and the launch of the Purple Newsletter.

Minister Subhash Phal Dessai thanked all involved, calling the fest a "heartbeat of inclusion" that reflects Goa's leadership in building a more inclusive society. International Purple Fest 2025 marks a significant step forward in promoting inclusion, education, and employment opportunities for Persons with Disabilities across India.

Purple Fest 2025 ends with call for inclusive growth

THE GOAN I NETWORK

PANAJI

The third edition of the International Purple Fest 2025 concluded in Panaji on Sunday, with leaders reaffirming their commitment to inclusive education, employment, and accessibility for persons with disabilities (PwDs).

Organised by the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and the Office of the State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the United Nations India, the four-day event brought together delegates, policymakers, and performers from across India and abroad.

Goa Governor Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, Kerala Governor Rajendra Arlekar, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Union Minister Shripad Naik, and Social Welfare Minister Subhash Phal Dessai were among the dignitaries present at the closing ceremony.

Governor Raju said the Purple Fest had turned Panaji into a "symbol of unity, dignity, and inclusion," adding that persons with disabilities must be recognised as holders of rights, not recipients of charity. Governor Arlekar emphasised that PwDs seek opportunities, not sympathy, and that inclusion should translate into real participation and respect.

Chief Minister Sawant said Goa had emerged as a national model of inclusion, where accessibility and opportunity drive both social and economic growth. "Education empowers, employment dignifies, and together they create independence — the foundation of inclusion," he said.

The festival's finale included the felicitation of 21 Purple Ambassadors, the launch of the Purple Newsletter, and cultural performances by special schools and groups such as Miracle on Wheels and Victory Arts Foundation.

The event ended with a call to sustain the momentum of Goa's growing Purple Movement — a symbol of accessibility, equality, and empowerment for all.



MEDIA CLIPPINGS



पर्पल फेस्टच्या समारोपप्रसंगी उपस्थित मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत, राज्यपाल पुसापती अशोक गजपती राजू, मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, केरळचे राज्यपाल राजेंद्र आर्लेकर, खासदार सदानंद शेट तानावडे, आमदार राजेश फळदेसाई, उल्हास तुयेकर, ताहा हाजिक व इतर.









समारोप सोहळ्यात सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम सादर करताना दिव्यांग कलाकार. ● नारायण पिसुर्लेकर

व्हीलचेअर क्रिकेटमध्ये कळंगुट चॅलेंजर्सला अजिंक्यपद

पाळोले पायरेट्स उपविजेते, पर्पल फेस्त अंतर्गत स्पर्धा, एकूण १२ संघाचा सहभाग, परशुराम ठरला उत्कृष्ट खेळाडूचा मानकरी

क्रीडा प्रतिनिधी
फोंडा

अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्त अंतर्गत आयोजित केलेल्या व्हीलचेअर क्रिकेट स्पर्धेत कळंगुट चॅलेंजर्सने अजिंक्यपद पटकावले. अंतिम सामन्यात त्यांनी पाळोले पायरेट्स वर ७६ धावांनी विजय मिळवला. गोवा दिव्यांग आयोग, माटीकर चॅरिटेबल ट्रस्ट व गोवा क्रिकेट संघटनेतर्फे फोंडा क्रीडा प्रकल्प मैदानावर खेळविण्यात आलेल्या या स्पर्धेत १२ संघाने भाग घेतला.

प्रथम खेळताना कळंगुट चॅलेंजर्स संघाने निर्धारित २० षटकात ४ बाद २२२ धावा केल्या. गोलू चौधरीने चमकदार ७७ धावा फटकावल्या. मल्लिकार्जुनने १९ धावांत २ गडी बाद केले. प्रत्युत्तरात पाळोले पायरेट्सने ८ बाद १४६ धावा केल्या. सुंदरमूर्तीने शानदार ७२ धावा काढल्या. संतोषने २१ धावात ४ गडी बाद केले. झालोर रॉयल्सने तिसरे स्थान प्राप्त केले.

अंतिम सामन्यातील सामनावीर म्हणून गोलू चौधरी (कळंगुट), उत्कृष्ट क्षेत्ररक्षक कन्नड दर्शन लकी (पाळोले), सुपरस्टारकर (सर्वाधिक चौकारासाठी) निर्मल थिल्लोन (पाळोले), पर्पल कॅप (सर्वाधिक बळी) परशुराम (झालोर रॉयल्स), ऑरेंज कॅप (सर्वाधिक धावा) निर्मल थिल्लोन व स्पर्धेतील उत्कृष्ट खेळाडू म्हणून परशुराम यांना पारितोषिक देण्यात आली.

पारितोषिक वितरण समारंभाला समाज कल्याणमंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, स्पर्धा संचालक डॉ. केतन माटीकर, फोंडा पोलिस निरीक्षक विजयनाथ कवळेकर, फोंडा अग्निशामक दलाचे अधिकारी सुशील मोरजकर, ज्येष्ठ शिक्षक नामदेव नाईक, बाबू च्यारी, जि. पं. सदस्य प्रिया च्यारी, राजीव सहकारी आदी उपस्थित होते.

यावेळी बोलताना मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई म्हणाले, पर्पल फेस्तमुळे दिव्यांगाना आपले कौशल्य दाखवण्यासाठी व्यासपीठ प्राप्त झाले आहे. त्यांचा विकास होऊन ते सक्षम व्हावे हे उद्दिष्ट आहे. त्यांनी इतरांप्रमाणे नेहमी पुढे जात राहावे व आपली प्रगती साधावी, असे ते म्हणाले. स्वागत डॉक्टर केतन माटीकर यांनी केले.



फोंडा : विजेत्या कळंगुट चॅलेंजर्स संघाला चषक प्रदान करताना मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई. बाजूला डॉ. केतन माटीकर, विजयनाथ कवळेकर, सुशील मोरजकर, नामदेव नाईक, बाबू च्यारी, प्रिया च्यारी, राजीव सहकारी व इतर.

दैनिक हेराल्ड

पार्किन्सन्स जागृतीसाठी महिलांचा पुढाकार

आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्त २०२५ :पार्किन्सन्स मित्र मंडळाच्या कार्यावर प्रकाशझोत

■ टीम दैनिक हेराल्ड



पणजी, दि. १२ : पार्किन्सन्सच्या आजाराने भारतातील अंदाजे १५ लाख लोक ग्रस्त आहेत, तर हजारो लोक या आजाराने ग्रस्त असलेल्या प्रियजनांची शांतपणे देखभाल घेत राहतात. या समस्याबाबत जागरूकता मर्यादित राहिली असल्याने रुग्णांसह त्यांच्या कुटुंबियांना अनेकदा प्रचंड शारीरिक, भावनिक आणि सामाजिक आव्हानांना तोंड द्यावे लागते. या पार्श्वभूमीवर, तळागाळापर्यंत जागृती करण्यासाठी आणि मार्गदर्शन करण्यासाठी स्वयंसेवी साह्यगटांचे प्रयत्न महत्त्वाचे ठरत आहेत. आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्त २०२५च्या शेवटच्या दिवशी, पार्किन्सन्सचा आजार हा सर्वांचा एक महत्त्वाचा विषय होता. पार्किन्सन्समुळे पती गमावलेल्या आणि रुग्णांना आणि काळजीवाहकांना मदत करण्यासाठी स्वतःला समर्पित करणाऱ्या महिलांचा गट असलेल्या पार्किन्सन्स मित्र मंडळाच्या कार्यावर महोत्सवाचा एक भाग म्हणून प्रकाशझोत टाकण्यात आला. हा गट आपले अनुभव मांडण्यासाठी, या समस्येने ग्रस्त असलेल्या रुग्णांना मदत करण्याबाबत व्यावहारिक दृष्टिकोन विकसित करण्यासाठी आणि भावनिक आधार देण्यासाठी एक प्रभावी व्यासपीठ उपलब्ध करतो पार्किन्सन मित्र मंडळाच्या सदस्या विजयालक्ष्मी रेवणकर या उपक्रमाचे वर्णन करण्या आणि निर्धारातून निर्माण झालेला स्वयं-सहाय्यता गट असे करतात. या आजाराने आमचे पती गमावले असले तरी, आम्हाला रुग्णांना आणि काळजीवाहकांना मदत करत राहायचे होते. रुग्णांशी नियमितपणे बोलत राहणे आणि त्यांना अर्थपूर्ण जीवन जगण्यासाठी आवश्यक असलेला आधार देत राहणे या विचारावर विकास तेंवटी, असे विजयालक्ष्मी रेवणकर म्हणाल्या.रुग्णांना आणि काळजीवाहकांना भेडसावणाऱ्या आव्हानांची सखोल समज आणि सकारात्मक परिणाम घडविणे हा ध्यास, याच्या आधारे या गटाने आपले प्रयत्न रुजविले आहेत. पत्रकार परिषदेत पार्किन्सनची लक्षणे आणि परिणाम अधोरेखित करण्यात आले. यामध्ये शरीराला कंप सुटणे, विविध अवयवांची लवचिकता कमी होऊन ते कडक होणे, शरीराची मर्यादित हालचाल, नैराश्य, सामाजिकदृष्ट्या अलिप्तता वाढणे आणि दैनंदिन कामांमध्ये अडचण अशा लक्षणांचा समावेश आहे. या आजारावर कोणताही इलाज नसला तरी, औषधे आणि उपचारांमुळे जीवनमान लक्षणीयरीत्या सुधारू शकते पार्किन्सनमुळे अनेक आव्हाने येत राहतात, पण त्यांना आपले जीवन परिभाषित करू देऊ नये, असा मुद्दा रेवणकर यांनी ठामपणे मांडला. आमच्या मंडळातील सदस्य ७० वर्षांपेक्षा जास्त वयाच्या महिला आहेत. आम्ही आमचे पती गमावले आहेत, परंतु कधीही आमचा आशावाद डगमगू दिला नाही. 'आमच्यासोबत आनंद साजरा करा' या ब्रीदवाक्यानुसार आम्ही जीवन जगतो. एकमेकांचे अनुभव, अडचणी जाणून घेतल्यावर जाणीव होते की जीवनाच्या या टप्प्यावरही जीवनाचा भरपूर आनंद घेता येतो. पार्किन्सन्स मित्र मंडळाद्वारे अरोग्याची विविधांगी काळजी व सुरक्षा जाण्यासाठी प्रोत्साहन दिले जाते. मंडळाच्या उपाध्यक्षांनी योगासने, ध्यानधारणा, प्राणायाम असा व्यायाम मेंदूला प्राणवायू उपलब्ध करण्यासाठी तसेच मानसिक व शारीरिक आरोग्य जपण्यासाठी आवश्यक असल्याचे सांगितले. हा गट डॉक्टर आणि अमेरिकन पार्किन्सन डिसीज असोसिएशनसारख्या संस्थांसमवेत सहयोगाने कार्यरत आहे.

Three-day Purple Fest begins today

Team Herald

PANJIM: The stage is set and anticipation is high as Goa prepares to welcome participants, delegates, artistes and changemakers from across the country and across the globe for the third edition of the International Purple Fest, Goa 2025, starting from October 9 to 12.

A vibrant celebration of inclusivity, accessibility and empowerment, this landmark festival will bring together four days of insightful dialogues, cultural showcases, creative expressions, and collaborative initiatives championing the rights and potential of persons with disabilities.

Chief guest Pramod Sawant will inaugurate the fest at the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), at 5 pm in the presence of Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr Virendra Kumar, Union Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy Shripad Naik, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr Ramdas Athawale, Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade and Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator in India, as special guests, Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phal Dessai and others.

The inaugural ceremony will feature cultural showcases and Purple Rain, a dynamic evening of performances by artists with disabilities and mainstream performers.

Meanwhile, the stretch of General Bernardo Guedes Road from Directorate of Health Services to exit road of Panjim Market will remain closed for vehicular traffic from October 9 to 12 in view of the fest. Motorists are requested to take alternate roads and follow diversions.

Minister for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Subhash Phal Dessai said, "I urge everyone to join this transformative journey and witness how Goa leads the way in promoting accessibility, equality, and human dignity. The festival stands as a testament to our collective commitment toward building an inclusive and accessible society that empowers every individual."

State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities Guruprasad Pawaskar stated, "The International Purple Fest 2025 is a unique platform to showcase the talent, creativity, and resilience of persons with disabilities."

मानवी आत्म्याक कसलीच मर्यादा ना

मुख्यमंत्री : आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ताचो समारोप

■ भांगरभूंय । प्रतिनिधी



पणजी : आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पत फेस्त 2025 ह्या उत्सवांतली देख गजाल आमकां उगडास करून दिता, मानवी आत्म्याक कसलीच मर्यादा ना. पर्पल फेस्तान सिक्षण आनी रोजगाराच्या मळार लेलगीत नवे संदींची माची निर्माण केल्या. कार्यशाळा, चर्चा आनी प्रदर्शनांक लागून अदीक समावेशक शिक्षम आनी कार्यसंस्कृती खातीर दारां उक्तीं जाल्यांत, अशें मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत हांणी सांगलें. आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्त 2025 समारोप सुवाळ्यांत ते उलयताले.

आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्त 2025 आतां आमच्या देशांतलें सगल्यांत अर्थपूर्ण आनी प्रभावी उत्सवांतलो एक जाला, ह्या उत्सवान विविध मळा वयल्या लोकांक एकठांय हाडल्यात, हो उत्सव म्हणल्यार आमी अभिमानान 'पर्पल इकॉनॉमी' म्हणटात ते संकल्पनेची सुरवात आसा, समाजीक आस्पाव आनी उदरगत हातांत हात घालून चलतात. दरेक व्यक्ती त्या प्रवासाचो वांटो आसतात, ताका लागून समाज अदीक घटमूट जाता, अशें मुख्यमंत्र्यान सांगलें.

आपल्या उलोवपांत मुख्यमंत्र्यान राष्ट्रपतींच्या संदेशाचो उल्लेख केलो. 'हांव दोळ्यांनी पळोवपाक शकना, पूण हांव मनान पळयतां, आनी जें हांव पळयतां तें म्हणल्यार शक्यतायनी भरिल्लो एक सुंदर संवसार.' हीं उतरां पर्पल फेस्ताच्या आत्म्याक जुस्त धरतात. हे यत्न सुनिश्चीत करतले, दिव्यांग व्यक्ती आपले उदरगतीच्या प्रवासांत सक्रीय फुडारी जातले. शिक्षण दिता सक्षमीकरण, रोजगार दिता सन्मान आनी हे दोनूय मेळून तयार करतात स्वातंत्र्य आनी आस्पावाची बुन्याद, अशें मुख्यमंत्र्यान म्हणलें.

केरळचे राज्यपाल राजेंद्र आर्लेकार हांणी सांगलें, पर्पल फेस्त हो आमच्या दिव्यांगजनां खातीर एक बरी संद आसा. आपले मदली कला, प्रतिभा, कुळटाय दरेका मुखार सादर करपाची एक बरी संद आसा. ह्या सगल्या भुरग्यां मदीं वा जाण्ट्यां मदीं आशिल्ली कसलीय कला केन्नाच भायर पळयनात, जेन्ना आमी असो उत्सव आयोजीत करतात, तेन्ना आमी तांकां संद दितात. ते आमचे दयेचेर नात, तांकां आमी संद आनी सुविधा दिवपाक जाय, अशें तांणी सांगलें.

गोंयचे राज्यपाल गडापती पुसपती राजू हांणी सांगलें, गोंयान सगल्यांत सोबीत असो आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्त 2025 आयोजीत करून लोकांच्या मनांत घर केलां. दिव्यांगजन धर्मादाय संस्थांचे लाभार्ती नात, जाल्यार ते समान हक्कधारक आसात. समान नागरीक प्रतिश्ठ, संद आनी जिणेंतल्या दरेका मळार वांटो घेवपाक पात्र आसात. हें घटनात्मक बंधन आसा, हाचो उगडास पर्पल फेस्त करून दिता.

सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास, सबका प्रयास ह्या प्रधानमंत्र्यान मारिल्ल्या उल्यांक प्रेरीत जावन पर्पल फेस्त हो उरिल्ल्या देश खातीर एक आदर्श मंडिल आसा. एकवटान आमी एक सक्षम भारत तयार करपाक शकता, अशेंय राजपालांनी सांगलें.

दैनिक हेराल्ड

आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट २०२५ साठी गोवा सज्ज

समावेशकतेचा, सर्जनशीलतेचा आणि सक्षमीकरणाचा जागतिक व्यासपीठ

■ टीम दैनिक हेराल्ड



पणजी, दि. ८ : गोवा पुन्हा एकदा जागतिक स्तरावर समावेशकता आणि सक्षमीकरणाचे प्रतीक ठरणार आहे. देशभरातून आणि जगभरातील सहभागी, प्रतिनिधी, कलाकार आणि सामाजिक परिवर्तनकर्ते यांचा सहभाग असलेला आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट, गोवा २०२५' उद्या ९ ते १२ ऑक्टोबर रंगणार आहे. चार दिवस चालणारा हा उत्सव दिव्यांग व्यक्तींच्या हक्कांबरोबरच त्यांच्या प्रतिभा, सर्जनशीलता आणि आत्मविश्वासाचा भव्य उत्सव ठरणार आहे.

या तिसऱ्या आवृत्तीचे उद्घाटन समारंभ उद्या ९ ऑक्टोबर रोजी संध्याकाळी ५ वाजता एंटरटेनमेंट सोसायटी ऑफ गोवा (ईएसजी) येथे होणार असून उद्घाटन समारंभाला मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. प्रमोद सावंत, केंद्रीय समाजकल्याण मंत्री डॉ. वीरेन्द्र कुमार, केंद्रीय नवीन व अक्षय ऊर्जा राज्यमंत्री श्रीपाद नाईक, तसेच केंद्रीय समाजकल्याण राज्यमंत्री रामदास आठवले हे प्रमुख पाहुणे म्हणून उपस्थित राहणार आहेत.तसेच राज्यसभेचे खासदार सदानंद शेट तानावडे, भारतामधील संयुक्त राष्ट्रांचे निवासी समन्वयक शॉम्बी शार्प, राज्य दिव्यांग सक्षमीकरण मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई, पणजी महापौर रोहित मोन्सेरात, मुख्य सचिव डॉ. व्ही. कांडावेलू, अपंग सक्षमीकरण विभागाचे सचिव प्रसन्न आचार्य (आयएएस), संचालक वर्षा नाईक, आणि राज्य आयुक्त कार्यालयाचे आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर,सचिव ताहा हाझिक हेही उपस्थित राहणार आहेत.

उत्सवाच्या पूर्वसंध्येला बोलताना मंत्री सुभाष फळदेसाई म्हणाले,गोवा इंटरनॅशनल पर्पल फेस्ट २०२५'चे यजमानपद भूषवत असल्याचा आम्हाला अभिमान आहे. हा उत्सव समावेशक, संवेदनशील आणि सशक्त समाजाची आमची दृष्टी प्रतिबिंबित करतो. जगभरातून येणाऱ्या प्रतिनिधींना गोव्यात स्वागत करताना, मी सर्वांना या परिवर्तनकारी प्रवासाचा भाग होण्याचे आवाहन करतो. हा उत्सव समानता आणि मानवी प्रतिष्ठेचा उत्सव आहे.राज्य अपंग आयुक्त गुरुप्रसाद पावसकर यांनी सांगितले,आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्पल फेस्ट २०२५ हा अपंग व्यक्तींच्या प्रतिभा, सर्जनशीलता आणि जिद्दीचे दर्शन घडवणारा एकमेव मंच आहे. सर्व प्रतिनिधी, सहभागी आणि पर्यटकांचे गोव्यात स्वागत करताना आम्हाला आनंद होत आहे. हा उत्सव प्रत्येक व्यक्तीतील असामान्य क्षमतेचा उत्सव आहे.उद्घाटन सोहळ्यात पर्पल रेन या विशेष कार्यक्रमांतर्गत अपंग आणि मुख्य प्रवाहातील कलाकार एकत्र सादरीकरण करणार आहेत. विविध सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम, नृत्य, संगीत आणि कलात्मक सादरीकरणांमुळे वातावरण रंगून जाणार आहे.उत्सवाच्या चार दिवसांत पर्पल स्ट्रीट, पर्पल स्पेक्ट्रम, पर्पल वॅलिडोस्कोप, पर्पल फन, पर्पल स्पोर्ट्स अशा विविध उपक्रमांमधून सर्वांना समावेशकतेचा अनुभव घेता येईल. दिवसभर चालणाऱ्या या कार्यक्रमांमधून समाजातील सर्व घटक एकत्र येऊन सशक्ततेचा संदेश देणार आहेत.

Dainik Herald Edition
09 Oct, 2025 Page No.3

INTERNATIONAL
PURPLE FEST
GOA-2025

ORGANISERS

Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa

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

UNITED NATIONS INDIA

KEY PARTNERS

NCPEDP

EnAble India
Celebration of Human Spirit

BROTHERHOOD

SAKSHAM disability

ACCESS FOR all
www.accessforall.co

Bookshare
A BENETECH INITIATIVE

Goa Special Schools Association

25 years of service
SANGATH
Healing Minds, Inspiring Lives

DAIG
Disability Alliance for Inclusive Goa

GAD

RISING FLAME

TATA STEEL FOUNDATION

VENUE PARTNERS

ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY OF GOA

SPONSOR PARTNER

amazon



State Commission for Persons with Disabilities, Goa

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

1st Floor, Building B, New Market Complex, Goa Housing Board, Porvorim Goa
Email: dis-comm.goa@gov.in | Phone No: 9156321900 | Website: scpwd.goa.gov.in

