

# Goa

## Executive Summary

Goa has framed the Goa Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules 1997 and has formulated the state policy and plan of action for Differently Abled persons to implement the provisions under the three central laws.

The state policy makes provisions for barrier free access. The state has issued three notifications for education, four notifications for employment and one notification each for health and rehabilitation, social protection and transport.

## State Profile

- Capital: Panaji
- Population: 1,457,723<sup>1</sup>
- Population of Persons with Disabilities: 15,749
- Literacy: 87 % Ranked 3rd
- HDI: 0.779 Ranked 3rd
- Department: Department of Social Welfare

## Legal Provisions

Goa has framed the Goa Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Rules 1997 and has formulated the state policy and plan of action for Differently Abled persons to implement the provisions under the three central laws:

- Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 (Persons with Disabilities Act)
- National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities 1999 (National Trust Act)
- Rehabilitation Council of India Act 1992

The government has constituted the State Coordination Committee under the chairmanship of the Minister of Social Welfare and the State Executive Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary – Social Welfare for monitoring and implementation of the various provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act.

## Accessibility

The state policy provides that all public buildings, public places and transport services will be made barrier free through design changes, use of appropriate material and strict adherence to building by-laws.

## Education

Goa has joined the Sarva Shiksha Abhyian scheme in 2005. Under this scheme, the government provides free education to children with disabilities in the age group of 6 to 14 years through provision of facilities such as learning aids and tools, mobility assistance and support services. These include education through an open learning system and open educational institutions, alternative

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1. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goa>

schooling options, distance education, home based education, remedial teaching, part-time classes, and community based rehabilitation, vocational education and cooperative programmes.

The state policy for persons with disabilities provides that the government offers stipends and scholarships to students with disabilities for pursuing education at school and college levels including professional and vocational courses. The policy further states that in a scheme introduced through the education department, the government also provides travelling allowance, escort allowance, uniforms and stationery to disabled students. The government has implemented a scheme to provide attendance allowance to children with disabilities to improve attendance in schools and has issued a notification to provide extra time for students with disabilities while appearing for examinations.

The government provides funds to nongovernmental organisations for construction of schools for children with visual impairment.<sup>2</sup> Funds include a non recurring grant of Rs. 50,00,000 (Rupees 50 lakh only) for construction of the special school for a minimum of 30 children. Funds also include a recurring grant of Rs. 1,00,000 every three years for purchase of materials and a grant of Rs. 1000 per month for each student for maintenance. Children should have a minimum disability of 40 per cent to be admitted to the school.

The government provides funds to interested and eligible nongovernmental organisations for construction of residential schools for children with mental disabilities.<sup>3</sup> Funds include a non recurring grant of Rs. 50,00,000 (Rupees 50 lakh only) for construction of the residential school with a capacity of 30 members. Funds also include recurring grants of Rs. 1000 per month as maintenance towards each student, an honorarium of Rs. 4000 per month for the warden, honorariums of Rs. 2000 each per month for a cook, attendant and sweeper, and honorariums of Rs. 5000 per month each for three teachers. Applicants for enrolment in the school should have IQ less than 70 as certified by a medical authority.

The government of Goa provides scholarships for students with disabilities.<sup>4</sup> All students with a minimum of 40 per cent of disability are eligible to apply. Applicants should be domiciled residents of Goa by birth or by continuous residence for the last 15 years. Students are eligible for scholarships from Class IX onwards provided that they have secured a minimum of 45 per cent marks in the last annual examination and the combined annual income of their parents / guardian does not exceed Rs. 1,20,000 (Rupees One lakh twenty thousand only). The Income Certificate issued by the Competent Authority shall be valid for three years for the purpose. Further, the applicant should be undertaking a vocational training course in any vocational training centre / workshop / ITI or any other centre run by the Central / State Government / Local body or any voluntary organization or institution recognized by Central / State Government.

- Details of the scholarships are listed below:
  - Class IX to Class XII – Rs. 300 per month
  - BA / B Com / B Sc – Rs. 400 per month
  - MA / M Com / M Sc / Other professional courses – Rs. 500 per month

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2. Department of Social Welfare, Panaji, Goa, No. 50-390-2006-07-HC/

3. Department of Social Welfare, Panaji, Goa No. 50-389-2006-07-HC/

4. Department of Social Welfare Directorate of Social Welfare No. 50-289-96-97-HC/VOL-I/PART

- Reader allowance for students with visual impairment is admissible post certification from the head of the institute confirming the use of a reader at the following rates:
  - Class IX to Class XII – Rs. 75 per month
  - BA / B Com / B Sc – Rs. 115 per month
  - MA / M Com / M Sc / Other professional courses – Rs. 150 per month
- Hostel fees for persons with disabilities:
  - Class IX to Class Xii – Rs. 200 per month
  - BA / B Com / B Sc – Rs. 270 per month
  - MA / M Com / M Sc / Other professional courses – Rs. 360 per month

### **Employment & Training**

The government through the state policy provides for three per cent reservation in all identified state government posts as provided in the Persons with Disabilities Act.

The state of Goa recognises and awards employers for providing employment for persons with disabilities by presenting an annual award for best employer among autonomous or private organisations. One award of Rs. 25,000 and a certificate of appreciation is presented to an employer fulfilling the following criteria: provides three per cent reservation for persons with disabilities in the organisation, provides barrier free access for persons with disabilities within the premises, provides equal opportunities for persons with disabilities on par with other employees, provides additional facilities like transport and housing for employees with disabilities and is sympathetic towards all employees in general and towards employees with disabilities in particular.<sup>5</sup>

The state of Goa recognises and awards persons with disabilities for their performance at their workplaces. Three best employee awards of Rs. 25,000 each and a certificate of appreciation is given to three employed persons with disabilities, one each in the categories of visual impairment, hearing impairment and orthopaedic disability. The awards are given on the basis of performance in the last three years and outstanding achievement. (see note 5)

The Goa Grant of Financial Assistance for Undertaking Gainful Employment by the Physically Handicapped Persons Revised Rules 1996 provides financial assistance to persons with disabilities for setting up enterprises for self employment.<sup>6</sup> Candidates who are bonafide residents of Goa for the last 15 years, falling in the age group of 18 years to 65 years, whose annual family income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 25,000 and who have not received any financial assistance under these rules or any other rules or any other agency, are eligible to apply for assistance under these rules. The grant under these rules is available for persons with either visual impairment, hearing impairment or orthopaedic disability. . The applicant should have the basic training and required expertise to undertake the economic activity for which he / she is seeking financial assistance. The financial assistance under these rules can be availed for only one activity. Some of the activities being considered for financial assistance are:

- Cycle / Scooter repair shop. Assistance provided Rs. 10,000 (cycle) / Rs. 15,000 (scooter)
- Tailoring shop. Assistance provided: Rs. 5000 extendable to Rs. 10,000

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5. Department of Social Welfare 50-376-2005-2006-HC/1204

6. Directorate of Social Welfare, Panaji, Goa No.5/9/90-SWD Dated:- 26.11.1996.

- Typewriting. Assistance provided: Rs. 10,000
- Cottage industries such as bamboo or cane work weaving, caning of chairs, carpentry, black smithy, handicraft, candle making, chalk making and manufacture and sale of decorative articles. Assistance provided: Amount not exceeding Rs. 10,000 will be finalised.
- Setting up of kiosk / general store. Assistance provided: Not exceeding Rs. 15,000.
- Barber shop / Beauty salon. Assistance provided: not exceeding Rs. 15,000
- Establishment of pay phone booths. Assistance provided. Not exceeding Rs. 15,000

Besides the above mentioned trades / business / activities a disabled person is free to undertake any other economically viable activity. Certificate of having necessary expertise in the activity has to be produced. The quantum of assistance shall be decided by the Director according to activity which shall not exceed Rs.15,000.

Financial assistance for all above mentioned activities shall be in the form of subsidy of 25 % and loan of 75 % which will be interest free and payable in 10 regular yearly instalments. Documents required to apply for this grant:

Medical certificate in prescribed format

Income certificate issued by the manlatdar of the concerned taluka

The government of Goa offers a voluntary retirement scheme for state government employees who are parents of persons with disabilities. Any state government employee who has completed 10 years of qualifying service or more may seek voluntary retirement from service for providing care and support to the disabled child by applying to the appointing authority.<sup>7</sup>

The government of Goa has introduced a scheme to provide incentives for private employers to employ persons with disabilities.<sup>8</sup> An incentive of Rs. 500 is granted to the employer where the salary of the disabled employee is more than Rs. 5000 per month. An incentive of Rs. 250 is granted to the employer where the salary of the disabled employee is between Rs. 2000 and Rs. 5000 per month. To be eligible for the incentive, the employee should have a minimum of 40 per cent disability, should be a bonafide domiciled resident of Goa and should have been listed as unemployed in the records of the Labour Department and the Special Employment Exchange prior to the employment.

### **Health & Rehabilitation**

The government of Goa presents the best NGO award of Rs. 25,000 and a certificate of appreciation to one NGO every year to an NGO that fulfils the following criteria: the NGO should have worked for a number of years for persons with disabilities under the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995, should have started new practices and should have achievements in the fields of training, education or rehabilitation, should have assisted government departments in motivating the general public especially in rural areas to rehabilitate persons with disabilities and should have provided aids and appliances to persons with disabilities.<sup>9</sup>

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7. Department of Social Welfare, Panaji Goa, No.50-305-2009-10-HC

8. Department of Social Welfare No. DSW/50-378-2006-07-HC

9. Department of Social Welfare 50-376-2005-2006-HC/1204

The state policy for persons with disabilities provides that the district that totally implements the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995 and takes initiatives to provide for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities will be given an award of Rs. 25,000 in recognition of its achievement.

The policy further states that the government provides aids and appliances to persons with disabilities such as prosthetic limbs, tricycles, wheel chairs, surgical footwear and devices for daily living, learning materials, low vision aids, special mobility aids, various types of hearing aids and educational kits.

### **Social Protection**

The government provides a disability pension of Rs. 750 to all persons with disability under the Dayanand Social Security Scheme

The state provides a marriage award of Rs. 25,000 to encourage marriages of persons with disabilities. Persons applying for the award should be bonafide domiciled residents of Goa for the last 15 years. Further, the application should be made within three years of the marriage. The wedding should have taken place in Goa and the couple should have stayed together for at least two years. Also, at least one of the party should be a disabled person and the total income of the family should not exceed Rs. 50,000 per month.

The state government provides reservation for persons with disabilities in the flats constructed under the Goa Housing Board and has notified landless disabled persons as one of the category for the Article 334-A of the Legislative Diploma No. 2070 (code of Communicate).

The Goa (Grant of Financial Assistance to Persons with Severe Disabilities) Rules 1997 grants an amount of Rs. 20,000 to a person with severe disability that will be deposited in a fixed deposit jointly in the name of the director (by designation) and the beneficiary or in the name of the parents / guardian in case of minor beneficiaries with mental retardation for a period of 10 years.<sup>10</sup> The applicant should be a bonafide resident of Goa for a by birth, through marriage or through continuous residence for a period of 15 years. He / she should be suffering from any of the severe conditions – 100 percent docomotor disability including disability due to leprosy, however should be leprosy cured, 100 per cent visual disability, or mental retardation as certified by one of the approved medical hospitals. The applicant should have completed 10 years of age and the total family income from all sources should not exceed Rs. 25,000 per annum.

### **Transport**

The government provides free transport facilities for persons with disabilities on all buses, including shuttles, that belong to the state transport corporation upon production of identity cards issued to persons with disabilities.<sup>11</sup>

### **Miscellaneous**

The state of Goa implements a scheme for social audit in respect of the implementing agencies under the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995.<sup>12</sup> Any NGO in Goa that has been registered for at least three years and has been working in the field of disability management is eligible. The NGO will be given a maximum of Rs. 2,00,000 per calendar year to carry out activities related to IEC, capacity building and social audit for activities under the Persons with Disabilities Act. For the purpose of

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10. Department of Social Welfare No. 5/2/91-SWD, Dated: 24/6/1997

11. Directorate of Social Welfare, Panaji, Goa No.50-131-97-98-HC

12. Department of Social Welfare, Panaji, Goa No.50-389-2006-07-HC/

capacity building, the NGO should hold workshops and seminars for important stakeholders of the private and public sector.

Sr. No.	Category	Notification No.	Details
1	Education	<sup>1</sup> Department of Social Welfare, Panaji, Goa, No. 50-390-2006-07-HC/	Funds for construction of school for visually impaired
2	Education	<sup>1</sup> Department of Social Welfare, Panaji, Goa No. 50-389-2006-07-HC/	Funds for residential school for mentally challenged
3	Education	Directorate of Social Welfare No. 50-289-96-97-HC/VOL-I/PART	Scholarships for students with disabilities
4	Employment	<sup>1</sup> Department of Social Welfare 50-376-2005-2006-HC/1204	Awards for best employer and employee
5	Employment	<sup>1</sup> Directorate of Social Welfare, Panaji, Goa No.5/9/90-SWD Dated:- 26.11.1996.	Financial assistance for self employment
6	Employment	<sup>1</sup> Department of Social Welfare, Panaji Goa, No.50-305-2009-10-HC	Voluntary retirement scheme for parents of disabled children
7	Employment	<sup>1</sup> Department of Social Welfare No. DSW/50-378-2006-07-HC	Incentive for private employers for employing persons with disabilities
8	Health and Rehabilitation	<sup>1</sup> Department of Social Welfare 50-376-2005-2006-HC/1204	Best NGO award
9	Social Protection	<sup>1</sup> Department of Social Welfare No. 5/2/91-SWD, Dated: 24/6/1997.	Financial assistance for persons with severe disabilities
10	Transport	<sup>1</sup> Directorate of Social Welfare, Panaji, Goa No.50-131-97-98-HC	Free travel in buses and shuttles
11	Miscellaneous	<sup>1</sup> Department of Social Welfare, Panaji, Goa No.50-389-2006-07-HC/	Scheme for social audit