

GAUDE PRESENTS SPORTS AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING ATHLETES

August 27,2024

Minister for Sports, Shri Govind Gaude, presented sports awards to outstanding Goan athletes for their achievements in winning medals at the 37th National Games, as well as at international and national events, including the Para Championship. The function was organized by the Sports Authority of Goa in the city [today](#).

Shri Gaude congratulated the athletes for their dedication and perseverance in bringing pride to Goa.

During his address, Shri Gaude dwelled deeper into the mindset required for achieving excellence in sports. He spoke passionately about the importance of cultivating an inner drive that transcends mere participation. "Passion is the key," he said, "Without a genuine liking for what you do, success becomes a distant dream. He also highlighted the significance of mental discipline and self-control in reaching one's goals.

Drawing inspiration from Padmashree Awardee Muralikant Petkar, Shri Gaude recounted the story of India's first Paralympic gold medalist, who triumphed despite severe physical limitations. "Petkar's story is a testament to the power of will and the human spirit. If he could overcome such adversity and achieve greatness, so can you," He urged them to set their sights on competing at the international level, not just at the State or national levels.

"Champions are those who face challenges, handle criticism, and rise above controversies to prove their worth," Shri Gaude said. He also urged the athletes to dream big and consistently practice, not just during the lead-up to major events.

He concluded by advising athletes to play not for monetary rewards, but to bring honor to themselves, their State, and their country. He emphasised that respect and recognition are more valuable than financial gains.

The event also saw the presence of Secretary (Sports), Smt. Swetika Sachan, IAS; Shri Arvind Khutkar, Director Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Dr. Geeta Nagvenkar, Executive Director ,SAG, Shri Kedar Naik, Director (Admin) SAG ,Shri Vivek Pawar , Assistant Director ,(Programme Section), SAG along with other dignitaries.

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