

NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE DAY OBSERVED WITH SOLEMNITY AND PRIDE IN GOA

Panaji, April 14, 2025 – The Directorate of Fire & Emergency Services, observed National Fire Service Day on Monday, 14th April 2025. This year, the Fire Prevention Week carries the national theme: *“Unite to Ignite, A Fire Safe India.”*

The commemorative events commenced at the Fire Force Training Ground in Panaji, where wreaths were laid at the Martyrs Memorial Column by Hon’ble Chief Minister of Goa, Dr. Pramod P. Sawant, Dr. V. Candavelou, IAS, Chief Secretary of the Government of Goa, Shri. Nitin V. Raiker, Director of Fire & Emergency Services, along with all the officer ranks from Deputy Director (Fire) to Fire Fighters. A two-minute silence was observed to honor the brave Firemen Martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Shri. Raiker highlighted the significance of the day and solemnly read out the names of the fallen heroes.



Shri. Nitin V. Raiker, Director, Fire & Emergency Services welcoming the Chief Guest for the function Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon’ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Goa.

A marvelous parade comprising 12 platoons was conducted as a part of the ceremonial proceedings. The parade was led by Parade Commander Shri Bosco Ferrao, Assistant Divisional Officer, North Zone Panaji, showcasing the discipline, training, and dedication of the fire personnel.

The Chief Guest, Hon’ble Chief Minister Dr. Pramod P. Sawant, reviewed the Ceremonial Parade and presented Commendation Certificates to fire personnel for outstanding performance in rescue operations, discipline, behavior, and dedicated service. These commendations were awarded by Dr. Pramod P. Sawant.

In his welcome address, Shri. Raiker announced that Fire Prevention Week would be observed from 14th to 20th April 2025, focusing on public awareness programs across Goa. He urged citizens to actively participate and enhance their fire safety knowledge to help protect lives and property.

Shri. Raiker also presented key statistics and achievements from 2024-25, including various training programs such as the Training of Trainers in Basic Fire Safety and Evacuation Drills, Safer School Safer India, and Disaster Preparedness Training. Despite best efforts, fire incidents continued due to human error or accidents. The department responded to 9,773 Fire & Emergency Calls (3,147 Fire and 6,626 Emergency), saving 403 human lives and 815 animal lives, and preserving property worth ₹44.36 crores through timely action.



The Chief Guest for the function Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Goa reviewing the Ceremonial Parade alongwith Shri. Nitin V. Raiker, Director, Fire & Emergency Services.

As part of the awareness campaign, a Poster Competition was held on 5th April 2025 for primary and middle school students. A total of 1,652 students participated, divided into two groups:

Group I (7–10 years): "Flames of Harmony & Destruction"

Group II (11–14 years): "Be Fire Safety Champion – Protect, Prevent and Prepare"

Winners were felicitated on National Fire Service Day by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

In his address, Dr. Sawant paid heartfelt tribute to the fire service martyrs and acknowledged the unwavering dedication of fire personnel across India. He emphasized that while the nation progresses socially and economically, fire incidents continue to pose a threat to these advancements. He underlined the need for fire prevention awareness and assured the implementation of a Fire Risk Allowance for fire personnel in the current financial year.



The Chief Guest for the function Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Goa awarding commendation certificate to Shri. Shailesh Gawade for his devotion towards his duty.

The event also featured live demonstrations of fire-fighting and rescue operations, including displays of advanced equipment such as fire-fighting robots and drones. A public exhibition showcased gear used in Search & Rescue, Swift Water/Flood Response, Medical First Response (MFR), Urban Search & Rescue (USAR), and lighting systems.

The Chief Guest and other dignitaries highly praised the entire event, commending the excellent organization, precision of the drill demonstrations, and the informative exhibition.

Dr. Pramod P. Sawant, accompanied by Shri. Nitin V. Raiker, also inaugurated a newly commissioned Water Tender allotted to Cuncolim Fire Station further strengthening emergency response infrastructure.

The event was compered by Shri Shripad Gawas, Divisional Officer, Fire Force Headquarters, who also delivered the vote of thanks.

XX