

**TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS ON NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE DAY; GOA
STRENGTHENS EMERGENCY RESPONSE FRAMEWORK**

**CHIEF MINISTER DR. PRAMOD SAWANT INAUGURATES ADVANCED
FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT AND FELICITATES FIRE PERSONNEL**

Panaji: April 14, 2026

National Fire Service Day was observed at the Fire Force Training Ground, St. Inez, Panaji. The observance highlighted the importance of fire safety, preparedness and the critical role of fire services in protecting lives and property.

The programme commenced with a ceremonial parade by fire service personnel, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony and a two-minute silence in memory of firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty. Fire personnel were felicitated with commendation certificates for their exemplary service, and Director of Fire and Emergency Services Shri Nitin V. Raikar was presented with his Ph.D. certificate. An exhibition of advanced fire fighting equipment and modern rescue tools were also inaugurated.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant said, "Preparedness is the key to saving lives." He further stated, "The Government of Goa is committed to strengthen fire and emergency services across the State." He added, "New fire stations are being set up at Sanguem and Dharbandora to ensure faster response in remote areas." He also highlighted the implementation of the ERSS 112 emergency response system for coordinated services. He emphasised that strengthening infrastructure, coordination and capacity building remains a key priority for the Government.

CM Dr. Sawant informed that zonal fire control rooms will be established across North Goa, South Goa, and Kushavati to enhance coordination and efficiency. He stated that the existing training facility will be upgraded into a State Fire Training Academy to strengthen capacity building. Initiatives such as Apada Mitra and Apada Sakhi were also mentioned to enhance community participation in disaster response, while awareness activities like drawing and essay competitions promoted fire safety among students.

The programme was attended by Chief Secretary Dr. V. Candavelou, IAS; Director of Fire and Emergency Services, Shri Nitin V. Raikar; senior officers; fire service personnel; and other dignitaries.

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