

GSCPCR DISPOSES 24 CASES SINCE ASSUMING OFFICE

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The Goa State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (GSCPCR), has disposed of 24 cases pending before the Commission through expedited hearing and inquiries since its constitution.

At the time the Commission assumed office, 46 cases were pending. A further six new cases were received during the months of March, April and May.

The matters addressed by the Commission relate to corporal punishment, child custody and family disputes, physical and emotional abuse, mental harassment, emotional trauma, neglect, educational concerns, and other issues affecting the right and welfare of children.

The Commission has also taken cognisance of concerns regarding the sale of tobacco products in the vicinity of educational institutions and has called upon the concerned authorities to take appropriate action in accordance with law.

Cases relating to adoption have also been reviewed, and the concerned authorities have been directed to ensure their timely disposal in the best interests of children. To strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms, the Commission has recommended the constitution and operationalisation of Village Child Committees and Municipal Child Committees under the Goa Children's Act.

The Commission has further intervened in matters concerning the implementation of the National Education Policy and representations arising from circular issued by GSCERT with a view to reducing excessive academic burden on children.

In addition, the Commission has taken up with the Department of Education the need of ensure the availability of separate toilets for boys and girls, along with functional water facilities in schools, while also promoting menstrual health, hygiene and sanitation for adolescent girls.

The GSCPCR remains committed to protecting and promoting the rights of children in Goa and will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure a safe, supportive and child-friendly environment for every child.

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