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Purple Fest All India Para Table Tennis Open Championship Goa 2023 (NON -Ranking) A case Study

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Abstract:

The Purple Fest-Celebrating Diversity, India's first of its kind inclusive fest that embraces and celebrates Persons with Disabilities. It is an inclusive event that aims to showcase the person with disabilities and person without disabilities can come together to create a welcoming and inclusive world for everyone. The festival includes engaging panel discussions, artistic live performances, grand exhibitions, immersive experience zones and more.

Purple fest was organized from the 6th January to 8th January 2023 by the Office of the State Commissioner for Person with Disabilities in association with Directorate of Social Welfare and Entertainment Society of Goa. Directorate of Information and Publicity, Director of Health Services, Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Sports Authority of Goa, Goa Tourism Development Corporation, Directorate of Higher Education, Goa Human Resource Development Corporation and the Non-Government organisation working for person with Disabilities and Companies like Geno Pharmaceuticals, through Corporate Social Responsibilities initiatives contributed for the event.

The present study aims to analyse the CSR contribution of the Geno Pharmaceuticals towards Organisation of Purple fest All India Para Table Tennis open championship Goa 2023 held on 7th January 2023 at Indoor Stadium, SAG Campal Goa.

Para-Table Tennis is one of the most unique sports on the Para Sports programme, wherein players are categorized into 10 classifications based on the impairment. Para sports is played only by a player having physical disabilities. Geno Pharmaceuticals, contributed Rs. 4.5 lakh as CSR fund for the event. The CSR fund was utilized for Transportation of the players and equipment's, food and Refreshments, Cash prizes to the winners, Medal and Trophies, Honorarium to the experts etc.

140 para players (109 male and 31 females) from 15 different States registered. 58 wheelchair category and 82 in Standing category. Winners received 13 Gold Medals, 13 Silver medals and 20 Bronze medals.

Keywords: Purple fest, Para Table Tennis, Corporate Social Responsibility

Introduction:

Purple fest focused on various activities that include Purple Think Tank, Purple Fun, Purple Experience Zone, Purple Exhibition and Purple Rain. All India Para Table Tennis Open Championship Goa, the Inter-state Blind Cricket Tournament, Unified Beach Cricket, Purple I Run Marathon were the Sports event.

The Hon'ble State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities convened a meeting with eminent Persons with Disabilities, Persons working in Disability Sector, Disability Activists, NGOs and other stake holders, etc to organize Purple fest and the Purple fest All India Para Table Tennis open Championship Goa 2023. Unanimously the participant present for the meeting decided to conduct the event with the help of CSR initiatives as there was no specific budgetary Provision available to conduct the event. The readiness of official Table Tennis Classifiers was also finalized by the core Team.

Para-Table Tennis is one of the most unique sports on the Para Sports programme, wherein players are categorized into 10 classifications based on the impairment. Para sports is played only by a player having physical disabilities.

Para Table Tennis Players are classified based on how much their impairment impacts their performance in the Para Table Tennis and their functional ability.

In Para-Table Tennis, the trained and certified classifiers conduct the classification process. A breakdown of how Para Table Tennis players are classified are as below Para Table Tennis Players in classes 1-5 compete in a wheelchair, Para Table Tennis Players in classes 6-10 compete in a standing position.

Physical impairment – sitting / wheelchair:

Class 1: These players have no sitting balance and a severely affected playing arm due to a spinal-cord lesion or polio.

Class 2: Athletes in this class also have no sitting balance, but their playing arm is less affected than described in Class 1.

Class 3: Players in this category have no trunk control, yet their arms are minimally affected by the impairment.

Class 4: Competitors have fair sitting balance and fully functional arms and hands. Their impairment may be due to a lower spinal-cord lesion or cerebral palsy.

Class 5: This class includes athletes who compete in a wheelchair but who have a normal sitting balance, arm and hand function. The athletes have the most physical functionality of those in a wheelchair.

Physical impairment – standing (6-10):

Class 6: Players in this class stand, yet they have severe impairments in both their arms and legs due to incomplete spinal-cord injuries, neurological conditions which affect both or one side of the body, amputations or congenital conditions. Some players even handle the racket with their mouths.

Class 7: Athletes in this class have a severe impairment of the legs or the playing arm, but

less severe than those described in Class 6. For example, a player with an amputation of both arms above the elbow could compete in this category.

Class 8: Athletes with a moderate impairment of the legs or a moderately affected playing arm compete in this class. Stiffness of both knees or a below-the-elbow amputation of the playing arm are cases that qualify.

Class 9: This class is for athletes with a mild impairment that affects the legs or playing arm. Some athletes have a severe impairment of the non-playing arm, such as an amputation above the elbow. Athletes with a stiff knee or restricted range of motion in a joint of the playing arm may also compete in this class.

Class 10: Athletes with a minimal impairment compete in this category. This can include a stiff ankle or wrist of the playing arm. Players with short stature may also participate. Standing Rules (6-10)

All the other rules (scoring, etc.) and those for standing classes are similar with that of regular table tennis; there are no exceptions.

Objectives of the Study:

- To analyze the CSR contribution of the Geno Pharmaceuticals towards successful Organization of Purple fest All India Para Table Tennis open championship Goa 2023
- To examine the organization of Purple fest All India Para Table Tennis Open Championship Goa 2023

Methodology:

Purple fest All India Table Tennis Open Championship Goa 2023 was conducted on 7th January 2023 by Office of the State Commissioner for Person with Disabilities in association with Directorate of Social Welfare and Sports Authority of Goa. The data available with the organizer was obtained for the purpose of the Study. Participative approach was also adopted by the researcher to understand the organization of the event and CSR contribution.

Organizing Team/Core Committee:

A core committee was formed constituting of Person with Disabilities alongwith the Moderator who have past experience in organizing such event at State level by the office of the State Commissioner for Person with Disabilities. All the team member were working in different Government departments.

A meeting of all the core members was held and specific tasks were assigned to each member and a timeline was prepared for each task allotted. A deadline was set for 20th December 2022 to complete all the required tasks.

The correspondence made to different departments for supporting to the event.

- Request letter to make available SAG Indoor Stadium, Campal.
- Invitation letters to Officials Classifiers.
- Deputation letters to Officials of Core committee members.
- Letter to the Chief Executive Engineer, Electricity Department.
- Letter to the Director of General of Police, Goa Police Headquarters.
- Letter to the Dean, GMC, for Medical support team.
- Letter to the Managing Director, GHRDC for security and Cleaning Staff.
- Letter to the O/o Chief Electoral Officer for providing logistics support.
- Letter to the Director, Directorate of Information and Publicity.
- Letter to the Director Information and Publicity, Panjim Goa.
- Letter to the Director, Directorate of Higher Education to depute Director of Physical Education as a Match referee
- Letter to the Door Darshan Goa Panaji for Live coverage of the Event.

Inspection at Manohar Parrikar Indoor Stadium, SAG, Campal Panjim– Goa,

Inspection of the Stadium was carried out by Moderator, Executive Director, SAG along with Secretary to O/o the Commissioner PwDs, then Asst Director, SAG and Research Assistant, Forest Department. It has been observed that the first floor of the stadium was not accessible. Permanent Ramp was constructed by following Harmonized Guidelines which enables the Person with disabilities to have access.



Roadmap Towards implementation of the All-India Para Table Tennis Open championship Goa



Registration of the Para Players:

The registration of all the players was done through Google form link. The registration process was set in such a way that the players who register will have to mandatorily register for PURPLE FEST and then proceed with Para Table Tennis registration. Last date for registration was fixed as 15th December 2022.

Budget for the Event:

The tentative budget was prepared by Core committee considering the following requirements.

<p><u>HOSPITALITY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food & refreshments • Accessible travel • Accommodation • Certificates • Medal and trophies • Jersey 	<p><u>VENUE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banner & posters • Flowers n décor • Equipment rental and transport • Stage and seating arrangement • Additional wheelchair • Event support officials (referee, volunteers)
<p><u>CLASSIFICATION COST</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel Airfare • Accommodation • Food 	<p><u>EVENT PROGRAMING</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound system & Live streaming • Laptop • Stationery

Corporate Social Responsibility fund:

On 9th November 2022, the organizing team along with the Hon’ble State Commissioner for PwDs visited Mr. Dilip Salgaoncar, Chairman, M/s Geno Pharmaceuticals, requesting for sponsorship for All India Para Table Tennis. The Team discussed the idea of hosting a National level Para Table Tennis tournament and the various logistics and expenses involved in organizing the event. The official report was submitted to him along with the Schedule of event for the Purples Fest. On 16th November 2022, Shri Salgaoncar agreed to sponsor Rs. 4,50,000/- from his companies CSR department..

1. M/s Geno Pharmaceutical Pvt Ltd Karaswada, Mapusa, Goa:

Geno was founded in 1975 at present is grounded in a strong marketing network of 24 depots, over 1298 authorized distributors and stockists, and a field sales-force of 680 at strategic locations across India. Geno is actively involved in CSR activities they have donated 25 oxygen concentrator, handed over Medical Equipments, supplied PPE kit and othe essentials etc.

Awareness about the Event:

The official prospectus was prepared and forwarded to all the Para Table Tennis players, from 20th November 2022. Person with Disabilities and the core team members shared the information to Para Players in contact and constantly provided telephonic support to them in filling the Purple Fest All India Open Para Table Tennis Championship Goa 2023 as well as Purple Fest registration.

The press conference organised at Secretariat, Porvorim. and at ESG conference hall was carried out to create awareness about the event. Wide publicity of the event was done through Social Media, Print Media etc.

Registration:

The registration of all the players was done through Google form link. The registration process was set in such a way that the players who register will have to mandatorily register for PURPLE FEST and then proceed with Para Table Tennis registration. Last date for registration was fixed as 15th December 2022.

A detailed State-wise breakup summary of responses received from the participants is shown in the table below:

Purple Fest All India Para Table Tennis Open Championship Goa 2023

Sr No	State	Male	Female	Classified	Non Classified	Wheelchair	Standing	Total
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1		1			1	1
2	Chandigarh	1	1	2			2	2
3	Delhi	3	1	2	2	1	3	4
4	Goa	26	1	8	19	12	15	27
5	Gujarat	4	8	10	2	4	8	12
6	Haryana	4		2	2	3	1	4
7	Himachal Pradesh	1			1		1	1
8	Karnataka	15	2	11	6	4	13	17

9	Madhya Pradesh	1	1	2			2	2
10	Maharashtra	15	8	15	8	9	14	23
11	Punjab	2		2		1	1	2
12	Rajasthan	16	3	2	17	12	7	19
13	Tamil Nadu	11	4	10	5	9	6	15
14	Telangana	1		1			1	1
15	Uttar Pradesh	8	2	6	4	3	7	10
Total		109	31	74	66	58	82	140

Classification and meeting with Match officials of the event:

Official Classifiers Dr Ajay G.V. and Mr. Vinayak Sutar, carried out the classification work on 5th and 6th Jan 2023, of those para players who were not classified followed by sensitization meeting of the all the Match Officials from Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Goa, Porvorim Goa. 61 Para Players were classified.

Facilities provided at the event:

The total 20 Table Tennis Tables required for the event. Tables were obtained from the following institutes:

14 TT Tables from SAG alongwith 28 barricades, 4 Tables from Directorate of Sports and Youth affairs, 2 tables from Dempo College of Arts, Science and Commerce Bambolim

For sitting arrangement at inaugural ceremony, match officials and players, tables and chairs were brought on rent. The backdrop and full Sound system was arranged by O/o the Hon'ble State Commissioner for persons with Disabilities. 12 Wheelchairs were made available for movement of Para Table Tennis Players and audience with Disabilities from office of the Chief Electoral officer and office of the Collector (North)

Refreshment (morning and evening) and lunch in the afternoon were smoothly done with assistance of the volunteers and great supports from the players, their escorts and the Match Official

The para players from Goa were provided Sports wheelchair from the Sports authority of Goa for practice and match however those who can afford to buy the same brought their own wheelchair. Transportation facilities were provided to the players from Hotel to the Venue. Purple fest Kit, T-shirts were also provided to the Para Players.

“THE MATCH DAY”

On 7th January 2023, the tournament registration began at 7am. The task of registration counter was shouldered by the most reliable and experience in administration and were assisted by student volunteers and volunteers of Gujrati Samaj Special School, Margao.



Verification and attendance of Para players and the Match Officials and distribution of Purple Fest Kit, Tshirts, ID Card, Coupons for lunch and breakfast, beeps were done at the counter. Total number worked out to be around 450 people.



Matches were began at 8.00 am on 07th January 2023. Each match was of 5 sets and each set of 11 points.

117 Para Players participated from 14 different States, 2 players were disqualified in standing category as the players were not wearing a proper sport attire.

Doordarshan Panaji have arranged for live telecast of all the final Matches.

Prize Distribution Ceremony



Prize distribution to Winners at closing ceremony of Purple Fest on 8th Jan 2023

The prizes which were given to the winners include

Gold winner – Trophy + Medal + 5000/- cash

Silver winner – Trophy + Medal + 2000/- cash

Bronze winner X 2 (Both semifinalists) - Trophy+ Medal + 1000/- cash

Summary report of winners State-wise with cash award is as below:

State	Total Participants		Gold		Silver		Bronze		Total Medals	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Rajasthan	13	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Goa	19	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	1
Haryana	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	0
Karnataka	14	2	1	1	2	1	5	-	8	2

Madhya Pradesh	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
Uttar Pradesh	6	2	1	1	1	-	1	1	3	2
Maharashtra	14	7	2	-	2	-	1	2	5	2
Gujarat	3	6	-	2	1	-	-	2	1	4
Tamil Nadu	7	4	1	1	1	1	3	-	5	2
Chandigarh	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	0	1
Telangana	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0
Himachal Pradesh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Delhi	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Punjab	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0
Total	87	30	8	5	8	5	14	6	30	16
Grand Total	117		13		13		20		46	

Cash Award	5000	65000	2000	26000	1000	20000	111000
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Major Findings and Suggestion:

- Purple fest was organized from the 6th January to 8th January 2023 by the Office of the State Commissioner for Person with Disabilities in association with Directorate of Social Welfare and Entertainment Society of Goa. Directorate of Information and Publicity, Director of Health Services, Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Sports Authority of Goa, Goa Tourism Development Corporation, Directorate of Higher Education Human Resource Development Corporation and the Non-Government organisation working for person with Disabilities such as Sanjay centre for Special education ,Gujarati Samaj School for Special children.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister appreciated the activities including All India Para Table Tennis Open Championship carried out in the Purple fest in association with various Government Organisation,

Non Government Organisation and Companies in Mann Ki Baat.

- Geno Pharmaceuticals, through Corporate Social Responsibilities initiatives bear the cost of the event to the tune of Rs.4.5 lakhs.
- 24 per cent of the CSR fund utilized for providing cash Prizes to the winners (Rs.11000), whereas 18 percent of the CSR fund utilized for refreshment and lunch to the Para Players and the participants.
- 15 per cent of the fund is utilized for the Transportation of the Players and Equipment's.
- 11 per cent of the funds utilized for the Medals and Trophies.
- 7 Per cent of the fund utilized for the Stationary, certificates and purchase of Table Tennis Balls
- 5.5 per cent of the fund utilized towards payment of honorarium to the Classifiers and Chief Match referee
- Doordarshan Goa have arranged for live telecast of all the Final Matches and has interviewed the winners and runner-ups after each match about their experience in the tournament and the Purple Fest.
- 61 players were classified on 5th and 6th January 2023 by official which comprises of 52 per cent of the para players on match day
- Players in few classification categories were less few classifications had to combined and hence in all total 13 classification categories were made and therefore total 13 finals matches were played.
- 13 Gold Medals, 13 Silver medals and 20 Bronze medals. along with cash prize of Rs.5000 each, Rs.2000 each and Rs. 1000 each and trophies
- 117 Para Players participated in the event out of which 74 per cent were male whereas 26 percent were females
- 60 Per cent of the Para Players were from standing category whereas 40 per cent para players from wheel chair category
- 18 per cent of the Players are from Maharashtra followed by 17 per cent from Goa, 15 percent from Rajasthan, 14 per cent from Karnataka and 9 per cent from Tamilnadu
- 17 per cent of the para players from Class 8, followed by 16 per cent from class 5,13 per cent from class 10, 11 per cent from class 9 and 10 per cent from class 7.
- Karnataka players received 8 medals followed by Maharashtra and Tamilnadu 5 each.

Conclusion:

Purple fest is an India's first of its kind Initiatives towards bringing together Person with Disabilities from all 21 disabilities at Common platform organized by office of the State Commissioner for Person with Disabilities in the state of Goa. Purple fest All India para-Table Tennis open Championship Goa 2023 (Non-Ranking) is an initiative to showcase the abilities of the

Para players across the Country. The event was appreciated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Government of India and various stakeholders including Person with Disabilities Activist and Person without Disability. The event could take place in a systematic way due the financial assistance provided by Geno Pharmaceuticals Mapusa Goa and the support from Government as well as Non-Government Organisation.

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