

# Goa Tourism organises Raponkarancho Seafood Festival

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, kicked off *The Raponkarancho Seafood Festival* on December 13, 2024, at Arambol Beach, celebrating the state's rich coastal heritage and vibrant seafood culture. The event was inaugurated in the presence of Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte, GTDC Chairman and Sanvordem MLA Dr. Ganesh Gaonkar, Mandrem MLA Jit Arolkar, and Director of Tourism Suneel Anchipaka, IAS.

Bringing together Raponkars (traditional fishermen), dignitaries, locals, and foreign tourists, the festival showcased authentic Goan seafood delicacies alongside cultural traditions. A highlight of the opening ceremony was the presentation of traditional *Ghumots* to dignitaries and guests, symbolizing Goa's cultural pride and warm hospitality.

The first day featured electrifying performances by SHINE ON, Cosmic Sound, USMAN, and OG SHEZ, drawing enthusiastic crowds of locals and tourists.

Tourism Minister Rohan A. Khaunte underscored the festival's importance, stating, "*The Raponkarancho Seafood Festival is not only a celebration of Goa's culinary legacy but also a platform to promote sustainable tourism. It honors the vital contribution of our fishing community to Goa's coastal heritage. Through such initiatives, we aim to attract tourists while preserving and supporting local traditions and communities. This vibrant event strengthens Goa's tourism ecosystem, making it inclusive and beneficial for all.*"

Mandrem MLA Jit Arolkar emphasized the cultural significance of the festival, saying, "*This festival is a reflection of Goa's identity and a platform to showcase the dedication and efforts of our fishermen.*"

Dr. Ganesh Gaonkar, Chairman of GTDC, praised the initiative for its role in promoting Goa's heritage and traditions, while Director of Tourism Suneel Anchipaka, IAS, highlighted the festival's focus on community engagement and sustainable tourism practices.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Deepak Narvekar, Deputy General Manager (Marketing), GTDC.

With a strong opening, the festival promises more excitement on December 14 and 15, 2024. Day two will feature performances by Purple Rain, Gravity Band, DJ Katrin, and DJ Ivan, while day three will showcase The Imperial Band, Forefront, DJ Afroz Sayed, and Teri Miko. Visitors can look forward to an immersive experience filled with cultural programs, live performances, and traditional Goan seafood delights.