

Goa Tourism organises Deep Parv 2024

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, successfully hosted Deep Parv 2024 at the picturesque Art Park in Porvorim on December 15th, 2024. The event served as a vibrant showcase of Goa's rich cultural heritage while fostering unity and community engagement.

Gracing the occasion were esteemed guests including Rohan A. Khaunte, Minister for Tourism, and Suneel Anchipaka, IAS, Director of the Department of Tourism. The celebrations were further enriched by the active participation of local leaders such as Sonia Pednekar, Sarpanch of Socorro; Swapnil Chodankar, Sarpanch of Penha de França; Govind Govekar, Sarpanch of Aldona; and other panchayat members from Penha de França, Socorro, Salvador do Mundo, and Aldona. Representing the Department of Tourism were officials including Rajesh Kale, Deputy Director of Tourism; Gavin Dias, General Manager (Marketing), GTDC; Deepak Narvekar, Deputy General Manager (Marketing), GTDC; and Sagar Agni, Media Advisor to Tourism, underscoring the department's dedication to preserving and promoting Goa's cultural identity.

Vibrant Competitions and Community Engagement

The festivities began with a variety of competitions that witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals and visitors alike. Events such as the Dance Competition, Fancy Dress Competition, Cookery Competition, Rangoli Competition, and Poster-Making Competition provided a platform for creativity and talent, adding an energetic start to the celebrations.

Cultural Extravaganza and Performances

The evening program opened with a performance by Aarambh, followed by a traditional Ganapati Sthavan by the Nirbhaya Bhav Group. A thematic Konkani dance performance and cultural showcases by the Girish Kala Sanskriti Mandal, Sanvordem, including the Kunbi folk dance, added to the vibrant atmosphere.

The event culminated with mesmerizing performances including a Fire Dance, Bollywood-inspired routines, and a captivating live music band, which left the audience enthralled and concluded the day on a celebratory high note.

Recognizing Local Excellence

In a special felicitation ceremony, Minister for Tourism Rohan A. Khaunte honored individuals whose contributions have inspired progress and preserved tradition within the community. Recognized for their achievements were:

- Shreya Kambli (Beautician at Carrem)
- Sangeeta Nilesh Hadfadkar (Founder of a Kids' School in Carrem)
- Sunaina Sunil Pednekar (Owner of a Catering Service and Canteen)
- Smt. Shobha Vazarkar (Owner of a General Store)
- Shailaza Gauns (Owner of a Supermarket)
- Sawani Shetye (Historian)
- Yogesh Kapdi (Winner of the Goa State Kalavruddhi Award)

Their dedication to community progress and cultural preservation was celebrated as an inspiration for all.

Reflections on Deep Parv 2024

Minister Rohan A. Khaunte emphasized the importance of cultural initiatives in fostering unity and sustainable tourism. “Through Deep Parv, we are reaffirming our commitment to promoting Goa’s cultural identity and advancing our vision for Regenerative Tourism. This festival bridges the gap between heritage and development, showcasing our traditions to both locals and visitors. By celebrating cultural expressions, we create opportunities for community engagement, support local talent, and drive sustainable tourism initiatives.”

Director of Tourism and Managing Director of GTDC, Suneel Anchipaka, IAS, added, “Deep Parv has provided a vital platform for artists to showcase their talents while encouraging community participation. It is our endeavor to preserve and promote Goa’s traditions in ways that benefit locals and tourists alike, ensuring that our cultural heritage thrives for generations.”

A Celebration of Unity and Legacy

Deep Parv 2024 was a resounding success, offering a perfect blend of cultural expression, community participation, and joyous celebration. The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, remains steadfast in its commitment to

organizing initiatives that honor and promote the state's rich cultural heritage while fostering a sense of togetherness among its people.