

## KHAUNTE LAUNCHES 3 DAYS STATE LEVEL CHIKHAL KALO FESTIVAL

Panaji: [June 28, 2023](#)

In order to promote local festivity and to preserve State's rich cultural heritage Minister for Tourism Shri Rohan Khaunte launched a three-day State-level grand festival Chikhal Kalo ( Mud Festival of Goa ) at a function organized by the Department of Tourism at Marcela [today](#).

The 3 days Chikhal Kalo kick started from [today](#) at Shree Devki Krishna temple in Marcela. The traditional Chikhal kalo game will be played on [June 30, 2023](#) at 11 am and will be followed by the chanting of devotional songs during the Deity's Pooja in the afternoon. Along with the Chikhal Kalo festival, visitors will have the opportunity to experience the gastronomic culture of Goa with traditional Goan delicacies.

Minister for Tourism Shri Rohan Khaunte said that the Government strives for the promotion of Tourism in the State and as such we promote local festivities like chikhal kalo , Sao Joao and so on to preserve our own rich cultural heritage. The decision to organize this unique Chikhal kalo at the State level in Marcel village is to promote new avenue of tourism in Goa.

The Minister said Goa is not only confined to beach and sands Goa is more than this. We are culturally rich and needs to showcased to the world. He appreciated the cooperation of Devasthan Committee for their cooperation in organizing this event. Organization of such events will change the perspective of those who think Goan tourism as [sun](#), sand, and beaches. He appealed to project Goa in the right manner.

The Minister further said that Goa has been recognised by the world as the tourist destination. People attract towards Goa due to its scenic beauty nature, its flora and fauna. Apart from this Goa has rich cultural heritage and Government intends to promote spiritual & cultural tourism along with health and education in the State besides focussing on areas which includes, eco-tourism, adventure tourism, and sports tourism, revealed the Minister.

The Minister speaking further highlighted the importance of reviving local festivals so as to promote tourism in the state. Organization of this kind of festivals will encourage tourists who come down to Goa from all over the world will accustom themselves to our customs, traditions, and daily life.

Minister for Art & Culture, Shri Govind Gaude in his address said that Government has laid thrust on promotion of tourism in the State in a big way. Thanking the Minister for Tourism, Shri Gaude said the Government has initiated steps to make Chikhal Kala as State festival enabling it to reach across the globe. Steps would be taken to develop those places from Priol Constituency as tourists places hereafter, he added.

Earlier a devotional music programme was performed by Shri Devanand Malvankar, Actor-Singer, Mrs. Priyanka Raikar, Singer and Indian Classical Singer and Shri Rahul Deshpande, national award winner.

Deputy Director, Shri Rajesh Kale, President of Devasthan Shri Girish Dharwadkar and others were present on the occasion.

Director, Department of Tourism, Shri Sunil Anchipaka, IAS, welcomed the gathering.

The function was compered by Shri Govind Bhagat

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