

1ST MEETING OF THE EXPOSITION SECRETARIAT 2024 HELD

Panaji: August 23, 2024

The first meeting of the Exposition Secretariat Committee 2024, chaired by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, was held **today** at Mantralaya, Porvorim. The meeting focused on the planning and arrangements for the St. Francis Xavier Exposition 2024 in Old Goa. The exposition will run from **November 21, 2024**, to **January 5, 2025**, spanning 45 days.

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant emphasized the government's commitment to providing excellent facilities for pilgrims, ensuring a smooth and successful event. He took review of the existing infrastructure, requirement of new infrastructure, traffic and other arrangements in the Old Goa, Cumbharjua areas.

To enhance the pilgrimage experience, a dedicated portal will be launched in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Goa. This portal will allow pilgrims to book accommodations and manage their visit with systematic queue management options, especially for sick and differently abled persons. Pilgrim Centres will be established around the Church area, and an art exhibition featuring 65 Goan artists will be held at Santa Monica Church.

The meeting discussed essential needs such as road access, toilets, beautification, illumination, and signage. Additionally, CCTV cameras will be installed for security, and covered walkways, washrooms, drinking water booths, and a dedicated parking system will be set up. Electric Buggies will be provided to assist in transporting elderly and differently-abled individuals.

The meeting was attended by Shri. Mauvin Godinho, Minister for Panchayat and Dy. Chairperson of Exposition Secretariat Committee; Shri. Aleixo Sequeira, Minister for Environment and Dy. Chairperson of Exposition Secretariat Committee; Shri. Sandip Jacques, IAS, Secretary (Revenue) and Commissioner I (Coordination) Exposition; Shri Uttam P. Parsekar, Principal Chief Engineer, Public Works Department and Commissioner II (Infrastructure & Services) Exposition; Shri V. Candavelou, IAS, Principal Secretary (Finance); Fr. Henry Falcao, Convenor, Exposition Committee; Fr. Lawrence Fernandes, SFX Pilar and Senior Government Officials of the various Departments.

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