

## **G-FOOD FESTIVAL SHOWCASES GOA'S CULINARY HERITAGE, STRENGTHENS SHG MARKET LINKAGES**

**“BEYOND A FESTIVAL OF FOOD, IT IS A CELEBRATION OF IDENTITY,  
A PLATFORM FOR OPPORTUNITY, AND A POWERFUL STEP TOWARDS  
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT,” SAYS CHIEF MINISTER DR. PRAMOD  
SAWANT**

**Panaji: April 17, 2026**

The G-Food Festival was held at Zuari Hall, Lok Bhavan, bringing together key stakeholders from the food, hospitality, and rural sectors. The festival aimed to promote Goa's traditional cuisine while creating structured market linkages for Self-Help Groups (SHGs), strengthening their access to formal markets and industry networks.

On the occasion, a video on the Mukhyamantri Annapurna Yojana was launched, showcasing the success of women-led SHGs in managing canteens and building sustainable livelihoods.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant emphasised that the festival goes beyond food, representing identity, opportunity, and women's empowerment. He highlighted that women across Goa are actively engaged in food processing, catering, agriculture, handicrafts, and small enterprises, playing a vital role in strengthening the rural economy.

He further noted that under the Mukhyamantri Annapurna Yojana, women-led SHGs are successfully operating canteens, ensuring steady income and financial independence.

The festival showcased Goa's GI-tagged products, including Goan Feni, Goa Cashew, Mankurad Mango, and Bebinca, reflecting the State's rich cultural heritage. Initiatives such as GoVan were also highlighted for promoting sustainable practices and enhancing livelihood opportunities.

Emphasising the importance of market access, the Chief Minister stated that the festival provides a platform for direct engagement between producers and buyers, including hotels, restaurants, and retailers. He urged the hospitality sector and industry stakeholders to collaborate with SHGs and actively promote local products.

The G-Food Festival marks a significant step towards strengthening rural livelihoods, empowering women-led enterprises, and positioning Goan products in wider national and global markets.

The programme was attended by MLA, Dr Deviya Rane; NRI Commissioner, Shri Narendra Savaikar; Director, GCCI, Shri Sanjay Amonkar; Project Director, DRDA, South Smt. Deepali Naik; Project Director, DRDA, North, Dr. Sangam Patil, along with other dignitaries.

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