

After This Year's Success, Purple Fest set to go International in 2024

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Panaji: Purple Fest, held in Goa for the first time this year to encourage inclusivity and empowerment of persons with disabilities (PWD), will go international next January. Chief minister Pramod Sawant on Monday said International Purple Fest, 2024, which will be held from January 8 to 13, will enable persons with disabilities to reach new heights and contribute significantly to the social fabric of the nation.

Registrations have begun online on www.purplefest.goa.gov.in.

Organised by the office of the state commissioner for persons with disabilities and the directorate of social welfare, the festival will have discussions tackling crucial issues to pave the way for a more inclusive society, showcase cutting edge solutions to enhance the lives of PwDs and promote independent living as well as host sports championships and musical performances for both PwDs and regular individuals.

The international edition is expected to extend the Purple Fest experience to a global audience, bridging cultures and nurturing artistic collaborations on an unprecedented scale.

With the theme, 'Diversity Unites Us', the festival aims to transcend borders and create a universal platform for promoting awareness, advocacy, and accessibility for PwDs.

Minister for social welfare, Subhash Phal Desai said the festival will advance the cause of inclusivity. "Purple Fest International 2024 is not just a festival; it is a resounding call for unity, equality, and understanding," he said.

Special invitee singer, rapper, songwriter, music producer and a PwD himself, Sparsh Shah, emphasised the importance of transcending

labels and encouraging society to embrace uniqueness and reject limitations. He asserted that being 'disabled' should not confine anyone's potential.

State commissioner for PwD, Gurprasad Pawaskar, said the unique festival promises an inspiring experience, combining a plethora of activities that aim to sensitise society, foster understanding, and promote innovation and accessibility on a global scale.