

# Mapusa to have artificial fruit ripening chamber by Chaturthi

## Agriculture Director stresses on having such chambers in each taluka

Team Herald

PANJIM: In response to the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) raising concerns over the absence of an artificial fruit ripening chamber in North Goa, the Agriculture Department has initiated the construction of a facility with a 60-tonne daily capacity at the Mapusa market yard. The project is expected to be completed by Ganesh Chaturthi this year.

Agriculture Director Sandeep Fol Dessai told O Herald, "There must be artificial ripening chambers in each taluka. The fruits have to be ripened scientifically. We have premises under the Goa Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Board in each taluka where trading is promoted."

He added, "When we learnt that fruits are not being ripened scientifically at Mapusa or its nearby

There must be artificial ripening chambers in each taluka. The fruits have to be ripened scientifically. We have premises under the Goa Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Board in each taluka where trading is promoted. When we learnt that fruits are not being ripened scientifically at Mapusa or its nearby areas, we carried out an inspection and found that the fruits are being ripened in the most unhygienic way. The ripening was not scientific."

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The inspection also revealed the use of harmful chemicals by some vendors. Following this, the FDA conducted multiple raids, prompting the Goa Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Board to initiate the process of setting up a ripening chamber at Mapusa. An e-tender was issued, and construction has begun.

"The ripening chamber

will have four compartments. Currently, the market receives 8-10 tonnes of bananas daily, and this rises to around 15 tonnes during festive seasons like Ganesh Chaturthi, Diwali, or Christmas. Considering this, we have decided to construct four ripening chambers of 15 tonnes each at the Mapusa market yard," Fol Dessai said.

"If everything goes well, then the chambers will be ready for use by Ganesh Chaturthi this year. The chambers are being constructed at a cost of Rs 2

crore, out of which 35 per cent will be borne by the Centre, and the remaining by the State," he added.

It's worth noting that the FDA recently intensified raids across Goa, conducting approximately 80 inspections covering over 350 establishments across North and South Goa within the past nine months. A senior FDA official previously told O Herald that while South Goa has three artificial ripening chambers, North Goa currently has none.

Banana wholesalers and fruit dealers at the Mapusa Sub Yard Market have long been demanding the establishment of a ripening chamber within the market premises. They have emphasised the urgent need to modernise the Mapusa Sub Yard Market—one of North Goa's largest wholesale agri-markets.

Despite significant expansion over the past four decades, the market continues to operate with outdated infrastructure and lacks essential facilities for both traders and vendors. Spanning approximately 21,000 square metres,

the market hosts over 100 traders dealing in fruits, vegetables, coconuts, and

other agricultural produce, alongside numerous small-scale vendors.

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## Desire for change: Vijai intends to unify pro-Goan forces to defeat BJP

Team Herald

PANJIM: Keeping all his options open, Goa Forward Party (GFP) president and MLA Vijai Sardesai said that he intends to spend the upcoming year engaging with people across Goa to understand their challenges and to unify all pro-Goan forces, driven by a desire for change rather than personal political gain, to ultimately defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Speaking to O Herald on Tuesday, Vijai said, "There are some people who say that I should join the Congress but it is like giving up your identity. It would be very offending to even consider this idea. But I want to assure everyone that all options can be considered even the most unthinkable option to preserve Goa for posterity. The issue is now about making Goa, a Goa again. You should have a clear vision, clear mindset and

There are some people who say that I should join the Congress but it is like giving up your identity. It would be very offending to even consider this idea. But I want to assure everyone that all options can be considered even the most unthinkable option to preserve Goa for posterity. The issue is now about making Goa, a Goa again. You should have a clear vision, clear mindset and willingness to sacrifice."

- Vijai Sardesai, Goa Forward Party (GFP) president

"I want to assure people that there is no political agenda behind any move to go to the people. But going to people is to know their difficulties and to find Goa centric solutions. This can happen with unity and by uniting all Goan forces," he said.

Stating that every Assembly election puts out a lesson, conclusion and reference and in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the reference was that if you come together you can defeat the BJP.

According to Vijai, the general perception of the people is that the Opposi-

tion has to be united. People hold Congress responsible for not uniting the Opposition. In 2024 polls, people of Goa brought INDIA Bloc together and Congress retained the South Goa Parliamentary seat. He said, "In the absence of initiative from the Congress, people feel that I should take the initiative. If this has to happen, then somebody has to go around and listen to the people and create an alternative."

Those associated with the BJP are not happy and they are complaining about 'Congressification of BJP', Vijai said, indirectly hinting at Congress turncoats.

## Governor, CM greet Goans on Revolution Day

Team Herald

PANJIM: Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai and Chief Minister Pramod Sawant have greeted the people on the historic occasion of Goa Revolution Day on June 18.

In his message, the Governor said, "Goa Revolution Day is one of the most defining events in the history of the State and every year we celebrate this event on June 18 to recall the sacrifices of the freedom fighters and martyrs who sacrificed their life only to restore their homeland from Portuguese Colonial Regime."

The Governor further said, "The evening of June 18, 1946 in Margao is an unforgettable day in the history of Goa's Freedom Struggle. It is on this evening, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia, and Dr Julio Menezes started the civil disobedience movement against Salazar's dictatorial regime. These two men were responsible for starting a revolution. They lit the torch of freedom from Portuguese rule on June 18, 1946 at Margao which resulted in Goa's Liberation on December 19, 1961."

"On this occasion, let us all bow our heads in reverence to the memory of all the martyrs, freedom fighters and statesmen who through their valour enabled Goa to become a part

of India and define her own destiny," he said.

"Let us on this unforgettable day rededicate ourselves to take India and Goa on the path of Viksit Bharat Viksit Goa, 2047," the Governor added.

In his message, CM Sawant said, "Goa Revolution Day has special prominence for Goans as it was on June 18, 1946, Goans staged an open revolt against the violence by the Portuguese colonial regime. On this day Dr Ram Manohar Lohia along with Dr Julião Menezes, expressed the courage to fight against the oppressive Portuguese regime with fearless speech."

"The spark lit by Dr Ram Manohar Lohia at Margao marked the final stage of the freedom movement that culminated in the Liberation of Goa. It gave courage to thousands of Goans to come together and oppose the dictatorial Portuguese rule resulting in the liberation of Goa on December 19, 1961," the CM said.

He said, "Thousands of Goans had voluntarily participated in this freedom struggle which witnessed supreme sacrifice and untold hardships by the freedom fighters. Many embraced martyrdom. This is the occasion to recall, salute and pay tribute to the bravery of our freedom fighters," he added.