



# CISF Vande Mataram Coastal Cyclothon–2026 receives enthusiastic welcome in Goa

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Panaji, Goa, 15 February 2026

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Vande Mataram Coastal Cyclothon–2026 reached Goa today, February 15, to an enthusiastic public reception, marking a significant milestone in the western coastal leg of the nationwide outreach initiative.

The Cyclothon, a 6,553-kilometre coastal journey along India’s eastern and western shorelines, was flagged off virtually on 28 January 2026 by the Hon’ble Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Nityanand Rai from New Delhi. The 25-day initiative, which is being conducted simultaneously along the eastern and western coastlines of India under the theme “Surakshit Tat, Samriddh Bharat” (Secure Coast, Prosperous India), brings together 130 CISF personnel, including 65 women cyclists, and commemorates the 150th year of the National Song “Vande Mataram.”

Talking about the entry of the team to Goa, Shri Vijay Prakash, the Additional Director General (HQ), CISF, said that the overwhelming response reflects a growing public understanding that coastal security is not the sole responsibility of a security agency but a shared national commitment. “By engaging directly with fishermen, youth and local institutions, CISF is strengthening trust and building a resilient maritime security ecosystem that supports India’s economic growth,” he said.

The arrival of the Cyclothon in Goa was met with vibrant celebrations and strong community participation at Panaji, Vasco da Gama, Betim, Calangute and Baga. Traditional Goan folk performances, youth rallies and interactive sessions with school students marked the welcoming events, reflecting widespread public engagement. The CISF team also held interactions with fishermen communities, Panchayat heads and local representatives.

The Cyclothon has been designed as a structured national outreach mission rather than merely a sporting expedition. Over the past weeks, teams have traversed multiple coastal districts, halting in selected coastal villages identified through prior surveys conducted by CISF’s coastal units. During these engagements, cyclists have stayed overnight in villages and interacted closely with residents to discuss livelihood challenges, environmental concerns, the menace of drug trafficking and the importance of coastal vigilance.

Conducted in partnership with the Ministries of Culture, Sports, and Information & Broadcasting, the Vande Mataram Coastal Cyclothon–2026 will culminate at Kochi on 22 February 2026.







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PIB Panaji/Ambadas Yadav/Parshuram Kor

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