



MAHARASHTRA A WORLD WITHIN

Directorate of Tourism, Tourism Department, GoM
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Events That Define Maharashtra

March 2026 sustained Maharashtra's strong tourism momentum, driven by favourable weather, festive celebrations like Gudi Padwa, and active cultural programming. Destinations across the state remained vibrant, reflecting continued growth in visitor engagement and overall tourism appeal.

Maharashtra Tourism Gears Up for Gudi Padwa Celebrations – Cultural Events Planned in Mumbai and Nashik

Maharashtra Tourism celebrated Gudi Padwa, the Marathi New Year, with cultural events in Mumbai and Nashik on March 19, 2026. The cultural event was held to promote Maharashtra worldwide by showcasing the state's rich cultural heritage and diversity. The cultural event began at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Park in Mumbai and Anant Kanhere Ground in Nashik, and ended at Ravindra Natya Mandir and Kalaram Temple in Nashik.



The cultural event included performances by trumpeters, flag shows, and a cultural procession carrying the palanquin of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, along with folk, dance, and percussion groups. Marathi film and television artists also participated in the cultural event in Mumbai. The cultural event concluded with floor art, traditional attire, and displays on Maharashtra's forts, coastal tourism, and important religious sites to encourage participation.

German Delegation Explores Ajanta, Ellora and Mumbai on Maharashtra Tourism FAM Tour

The Department of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra, successfully concluded a Familiarisation (FAM) Tour programme for the visiting German delegation from March 12-16, 2026. This is to further consolidate Maharashtra's position in the European tourism market. The tour programme is aimed at assisting visiting media representatives, tour operators, and influencers in experiencing the rich tourism potential that Maharashtra has to offer.



The tour programme began in Mumbai with business-to-business meetings and other networking events with tourism officials. The tour programme continued to Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, where the delegates experienced the rich heritage tourism potential that Maharashtra has to offer. During the tour programme, the delegates visited prominent heritage sites in Maharashtra, including Daulatabad Fort, Ellora Caves, Ajanta Caves, Grishneshwar Temple, and Bibi ka Maqbara. The tour programme concluded in Mumbai

with an orientation tour to prominent sites, including the Gateway of India, Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, and Chaitya Bhoomi.

Gen O – Pixels & Play 2026 Puts Mumbai on the Global Map of Gaming and Youth Innovation

Mumbai witnessed a vibrant convergence of creativity and technology at the Gen O – Pixels & Play 2026, a four-day global festival held at MMRDA Grounds, BKC, where creators, gamers, and innovators from over 23 countries came together, placing Mumbai at the centre of discussions on the AVGC industry and the new-age Orange Economy.



Honourable Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was also in attendance, participating in a candid Q&A session with top creators from Maharashtra to discuss the state's growing digital landscape. The cultural performances have also given a new dimension to the event, attracting huge audiences.

Mr. Sanjay Khandare (IAS), Principal Secretary (Tourism), Government of Maharashtra (GoM), Mr. Santosh Jadhav, Joint Director, Directorate of Tourism, GoM, Dr. Pragya Manohar, Deputy Director (Tourism), Konkan Division, GoM, Mr. Aakash Chakor, Executive Engineer, Directorate of Tourism, GoM, Mr. Vitthal Sude, Chief Account Officer, Directorate of Tourism, GoM, and Mr. Ramesh Kadam, Officer, Directorate of Tourism, GoM, were also present at the event.

The closing ceremony featured the Honourable Minister of Cultural Affairs in Maharashtra, Ashish Shelar, felicitating nominated creators at the Orange Awards, followed by the announcement of winners in the creator and esports categories.

Events to Look Forward to:

'Koyna Daulat Dongari Festival 2026' to be held in Patan, Satara, from April 2 to 6



A colourful and vibrant celebration of nature, culture, and tourism is all set to come to life in the picturesque Sahyadri ranges with the organisation of the 'Koyna Daulat Dongari Festival 2026,' which is scheduled to be held between April 2 and April 6, 2026, in Patan, Satara District. Organised in collaboration with the Tourism Department of the Government of Maharashtra, the District Administration of Satara, and the Regional Directorate of Tourism, Pune, the festival is set to highlight the tourism potential of Satara District and bring its attractions into sharper focus, both within the country and abroad.

"This festival is expected to give a boost to tourism in the region and strengthen the rural economy of the region. By bringing tourists and entrepreneurs to the region through this festival, we hope to create new business opportunities for the people of the region," stated Mr. Shambhuraj Desai, Minister of Tourism, Government of Maharashtra. He further stated that all citizens of the country, farmers, tourists, and entrepreneurs must enthusiastically participate in the festival and help create a grand celebration of the region's rich cultural and natural heritage.

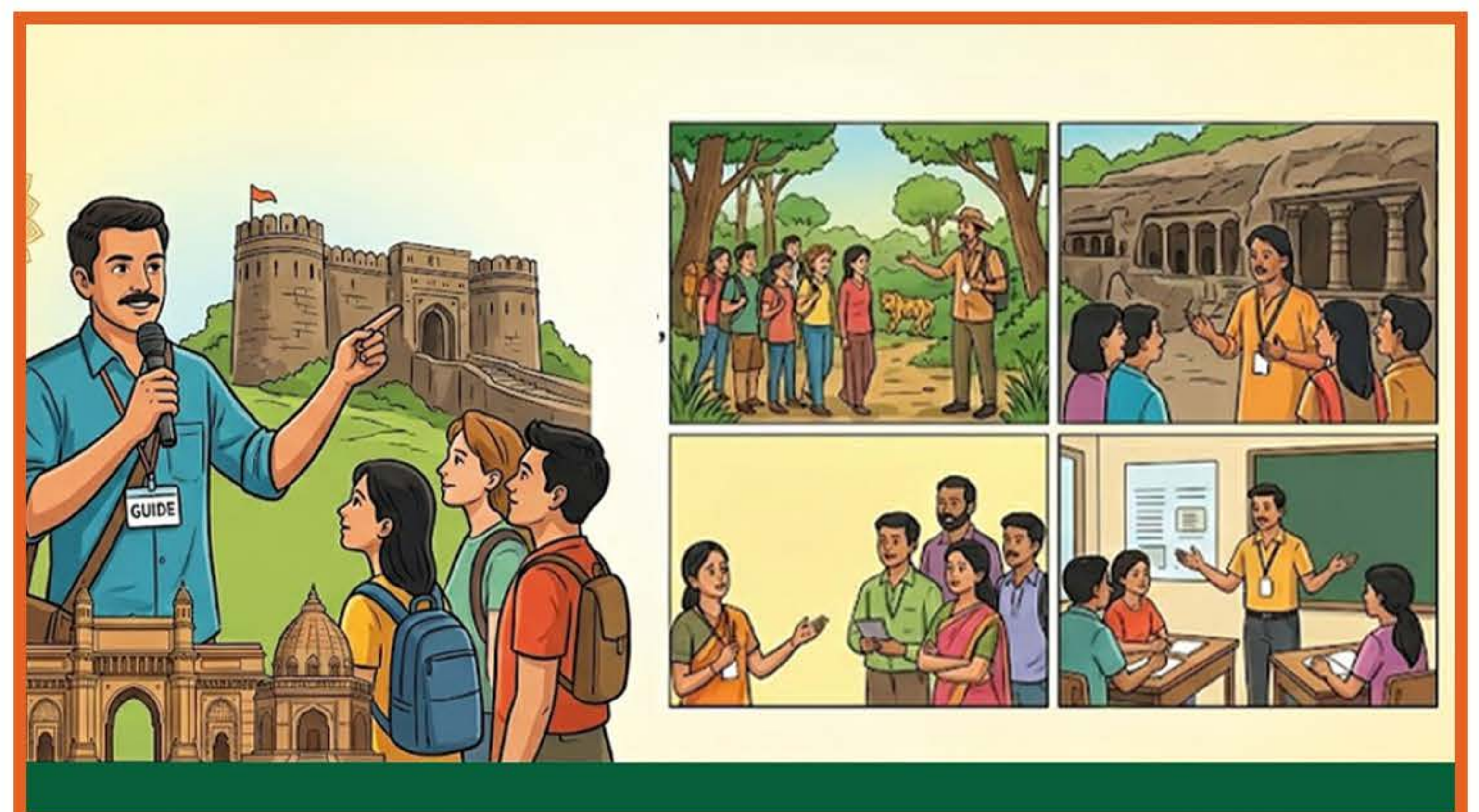
News in Focus

Seven-Day Tourist Guide Training by the Directorate of Tourism

The 'Directorate of Tourism' has planned a seven-day training program on 'Tourist Guide Training' as a part of the 'Namo Tourism Skill Development Scheme.' This training program will be conducted for interested youth of the Pune regional division. Around 200 graduates from any discipline, aged 18 to 45, hailing from districts such as Pune, Satara, Sangli, Solapur, and Kolhapur, will be eligible to apply for this training program.

Expert guidance will be provided by trainers from

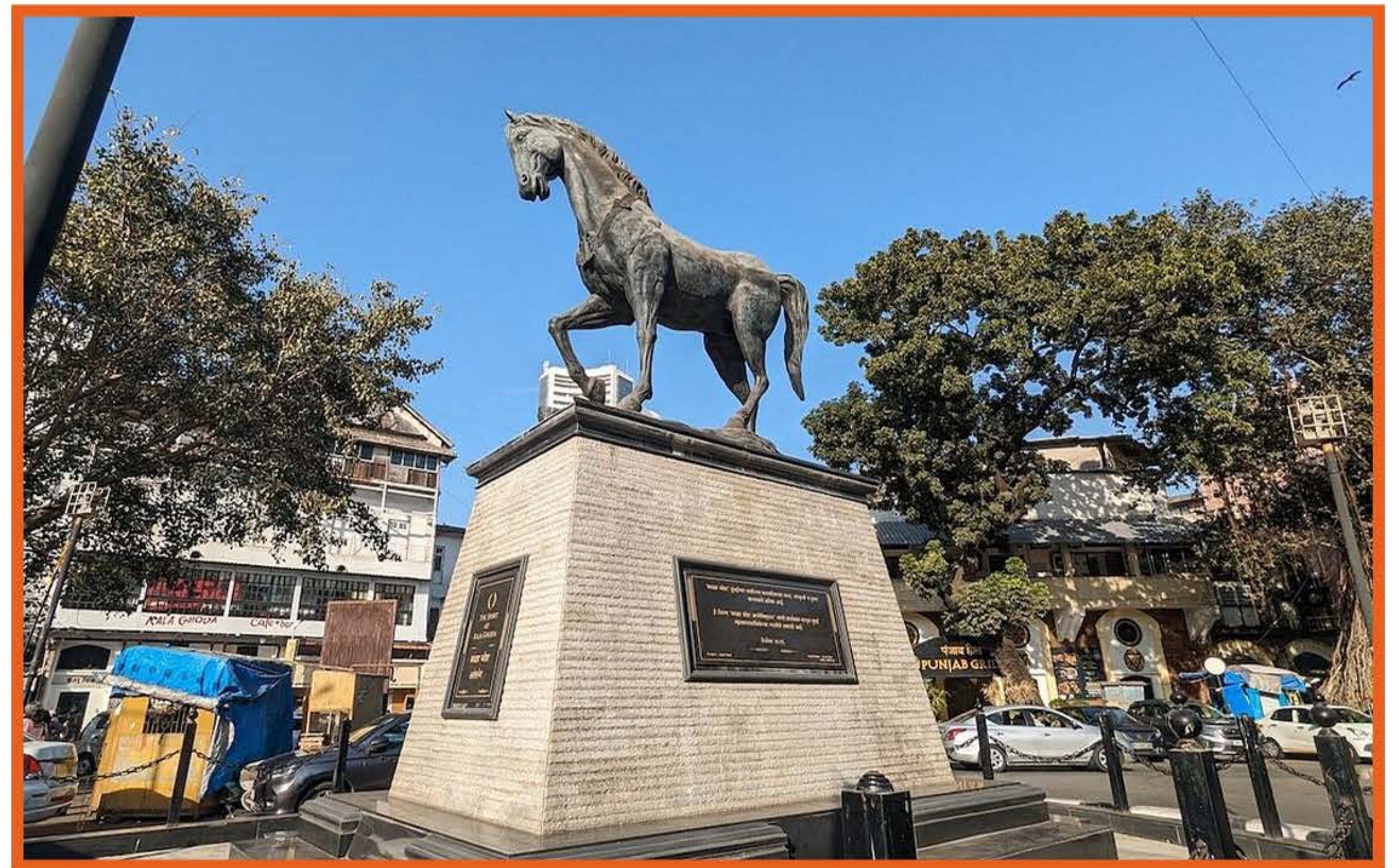
the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, along with officers from the Directorate of Tourism, Govt. of Maharashtra. After the completion of the training program, a certificate will be awarded by the 'Directorate of Tourism' to the candidates. In addition, the candidates will also be provided with identity cards to work as tour guides during the Simhastha period.



Kala Ghoda Beautification Set to Boost Tourism

The historic Kala Ghoda area in South Mumbai is all set to open its gates for the public again, thereby giving a boost to heritage tourism in the city. The project for the beautification of the Kala Ghoda area has entered its final stage, with the inauguration slated for March.

The major aspects of the project, including stone pathways for pedestrians, have been completed, along with the addition of vibrant murals that are expected to elevate the cultural quotient of the Kala Ghoda precinct. The project has also included a new concept of 'al fresco' dining for the visitors, which is expected to provide a unique experience for them. The concept of 'al fresco' dining includes the display of various cuisines from around the world for the benefit of the visitors.



Centre Announces Special Plan for 12 Forts



The Central Government has prepared a detailed three-phase plan for the site management of the 12 historic forts in Maharashtra included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. This three-phase plan for site management would include the short-term phase, which would be implemented within a period of 6 months to 2 years. It would also include the medium-term phase, to be implemented within a period of 2 to 5 years. Lastly, it would include the long-term phase, to be implemented within a period of 5 to 10 years.

The three-phase plan would include the strengthening of the existing administration, development of essential infrastructure in the historic forts, and development of tourist guidance and information infrastructure. It would also include the development of tourist infrastructure, excavation, and conservation work. Moreover, the three-phase plan would include disaster and risk management, preservation of the historic forts in the long term, and site environment and landscape management.

B-Class Tourism Status Granted to Chhatrapati Shivaji Temple in Bhiwandi

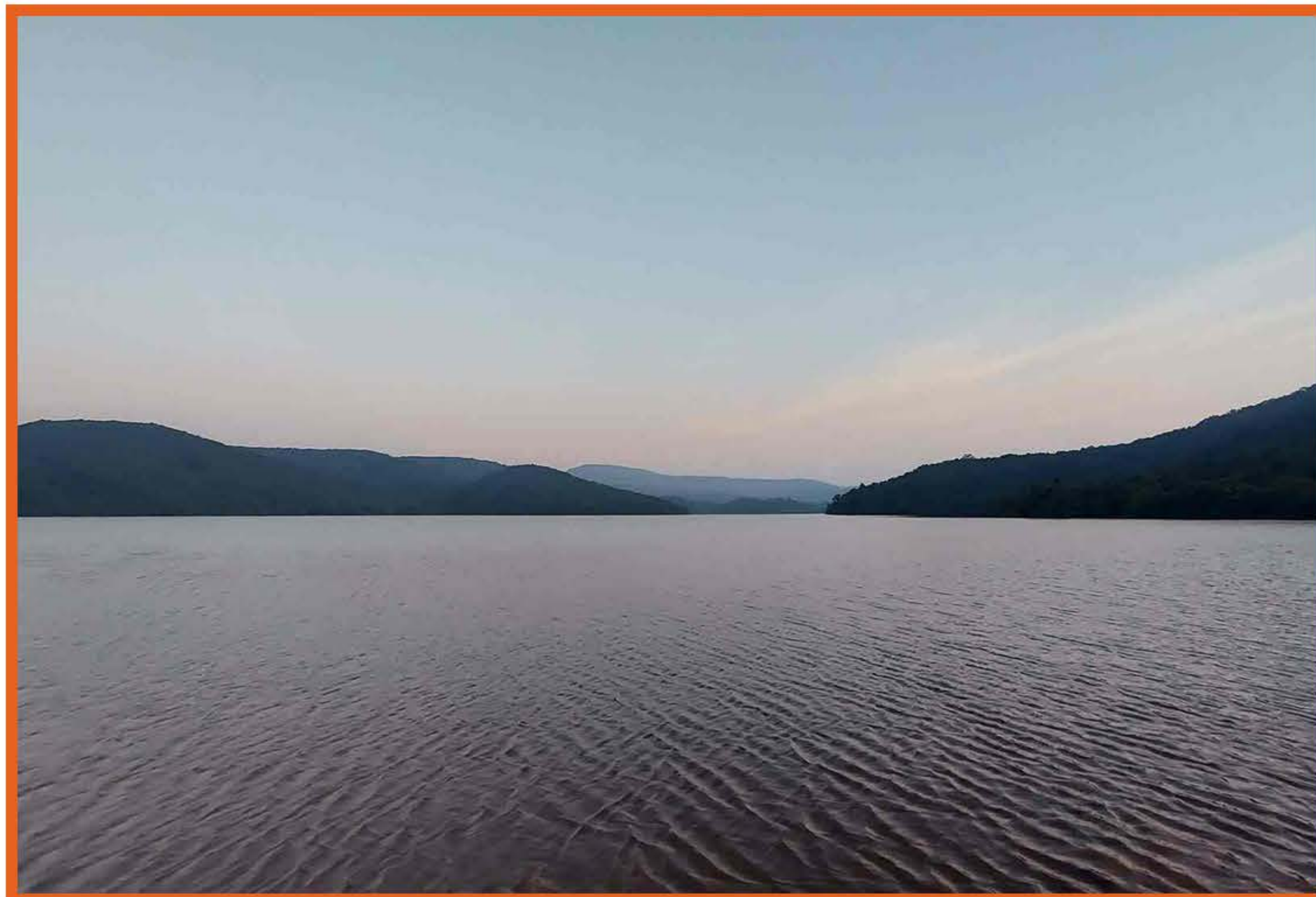
The Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Temple Shaktipeeth at Marade Pada in Bhiwandi taluka in the state of Maharashtra, which was recognized as the first temple in Maharashtra to be constructed in honor of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, was given tourism and pilgrimage status 'B' class by the Rural Development Department in the state. The temple earlier had tourism status 'C' class.

The proposal for upgrading the status of the temple to tourism and pilgrimage status 'B' class was considered by the State Criteria Committee in a meeting held on February 28,

under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to the Rural Development Department. The proposal was found to be in compliance with all the criteria as per the government's guidelines.



Radhanagari Backwaters Offer a 'Mini Beach' Experience



The Radhanagari Dajipur region was developed as a picturesque summer destination that provided a unique 'mini beach' experience through the backwaters of the Radhanagari reservoir. The tourists visiting the region to explore the destination came across various tourist spots such as the Radhanagari reservoir, the backwaters of the reservoir, and a butterfly park amidst the beauty of nature.

The tourist spot of Radhanagari, Dajipur, and Kalamavadi was known for its biodiversity and the peaceful environment that the region offered. One of the major attractions of the

region was the backwaters of the Lakshmi reservoir, which resembled a beach environment. Along the Kolhapur Radhanagari Phonda state highway, the tourist destination from the Hasane village to the Dajipur region was attractive due to the presence of the backwaters of the Lakshmi reservoir. The region was also known for the preservation of the sacred groves that provided a habitat for the rare flora and fauna of the region.

Scenic Summer Destinations Across Maharashtra

Pench

Located in the eastern corner of Maharashtra, Pench is a place where the wild remains gloriously untamed. Pench is famous for its teak forests and wildlife. The experience of being in Pench is not limited to the conventional wildlife experience. The morning begins with the chirping of birds, and the thrill of catching a glimpse of a tiger always makes the experience exciting. Nature does not perform in Pench, it simply exists in its raw, beautiful form.



Kolad



Kolad has slowly but surely emerged as a popular adventure destination in Maharashtra. However, Kolad also boasts an old-world charm. It is best known for its white-water rafting on the Kundalika River in Kolad. It is an adventure destination where people seek a quick break from their busy lives. However, Kolad also boasts a lot of greenery and a stay near the river. It is where you can wake up to a misty view and retire to a bonfire with tales to tell.

Panchgani

Quietly nestled in the Sahyadris, Panchgani has an old-world charm that is hard to replicate. The strawberry farms, colonial-style cottages, and the scenic beauty of the valleys create a tranquil atmosphere, which is a welcome respite from the chaos of the city. The Table Land, with its vast open plateau, offers some of the most stunning sunsets in the region. Panchgani asks you to slow down, breathe in, and enjoy the simple things in life in a beautiful hill station.



Malvan



Malvan is where nature and culture blend effortlessly. It boasts pristine beaches, historical forts, and traditional Malvani cuisine. Sindhudurg Fort is where you can see a proud legacy of the Marathas. The water is so calm that it invites you to try snorkelling and scuba diving. In Malvan, life moves to the rhythm of the waves. Every moment spent in Malvan is a moment grounded in satisfaction.









MAHARASHTRA TOURISM



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