



# MAHARASHTRA A WORLD WITHIN

Directorate of Tourism, Tourism Department, GoM  
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Pratapgad Fort



Diveagar Beach



Velas Beach

## Events That Define Maharashtra

January began the year on a positive, motivating note for tourism in Maharashtra, with sustained visitor interest across the state. The carryover effects from the holiday seasons surrounding New Year celebrations continued into the new year, contributing to sustained tourist activity. Good weather, cultural events, and holidays cumulatively ensured that tourism in Maharashtra had a positive start in 2026.

### Konkan Tourism Tableau Steals the Spotlight at the Republic Day Parade at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Park

The Republic Day celebrations at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Park in Dadar commenced with the national flag being hoisted by Honourable Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. One of the main highlights of the ceremonial parade was the Konkan Tourism tableau, conceptualised under the vision of Honourable Tourism Minister Shambhuraj Desai, which emerged as a special attraction.



The tableau presented the cultural diversity, rich history, and developing tourism scenario of Konkan in a beautiful manner. The panoramic display featured the extensive Konkan coastline, an impressive model of Vijaydurg Fort overlooking the Arabian Sea, and the peaceful Ganpatipule temple. Modern tourism experiences like scuba diving, dolphin watching, and water sports were also showcased. The Ro-Ro ferry service model represented transformative connectivity in the Konkan region. Along with the melodious Maharashtra Tourism theme song, the tableau brought Konkan tourism to the forefront of the nation.

### Maharashtra Tourism Pavilion Receives Overwhelming Response at 'Bharat Parv 2026'

To mark the occasion of the Republic Day of India, the six-day-long Bharat Parv 2026 festival was organised from 26 to 31 January at the lawns opposite the Red Fort and along Gyan Path in New Delhi. The Tourism Department of the Government of Maharashtra participated in the festival with a separate pavilion, which became one of the most popular attractions for visitors.



The festival showcased India's cultural diversity through regional cuisines, traditional attire, handicrafts, folk arts, and music from across the country, thereby emphasising the "unity in diversity" concept. A large number of visitors visited the Maharashtra Tourism pavilion. The pavilion provided visitors with all the necessary information on major tourist destinations, connectivity, and available tourist facilities in the state.

The pavilion showcased Maharashtra's distinct tourism offerings, including its cultural heritage, beautiful beaches, and UNESCO-listed forts. Several prominent personalities, tourists and industry stakeholders visited the pavilion and appreciated its creative design and effective promotion of the state's tourism potential.

# Events to Look Forward to:

## Maharashtra Tourism Gears Up for Asia's Largest Travel Trade Show, OTM 2026

Maharashtra Tourism is all set to take part in Asia's biggest travel and trade exhibition, Outbound Travel Mart (OTM) 2026, which is to be held at the Jio Convention Centre, located in the heart of Bandra, Mumbai. This prestigious travel exhibition, organised annually on a global level in the city of Mumbai, will be held from 5th to 7th February 2026.

Through the OTM platform, tourists can access all the information they need about the diverse tourist destinations Maharashtra offers. As part of the exhibition, Maharashtra Tourism will display detailed information on key tourist centres in the state. Every year, the OTM exhibition attracts over 2,100 exhibitors from 60 countries, members from 30 states in India, and over 40,000 stakeholders.

The travel trade show features pavilions representing various categories of stakeholders across the domestic and international tourism industry. This forms a dynamic industry engagement circuit. The primary aim of the OTM is to promote professional and business ties across the global tourism industry and to facilitate access to tourism-related information for the general public.

## Hindavi Swarajya Mahotsav 2026 to Be Celebrated in Junnar on the Birth Anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

To mark the 396th birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Maharashtra Tourism is organising 'Hindavi Swarajya Mahotsav 2026' in the historic town of Junnar in Pune District. The main aim of organising this festival is to promote Maharashtra's rich cultural heritage as well as its glorious history.

Organised in the historic town of Junnar, widely regarded as a living testament to history, the festival promises to showcase the best of art, music, adventure, and cultural events. At such an event, visitors can experience Maharashtra's legacy in the best possible way.

The festival is sure to be a special occasion for Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj aficionados, fort aficionados, tourists, and citizens across the state. Moreover, it will have a significant impact by introducing the younger generation to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's achievements and by increasing awareness among domestic and international tourists about the forts in Maharashtra. The festival will also provide an opportunity to showcase domestic tourism destinations, art, culture, and culinary practices, thereby serving as a cultural melting pot.

## News in Focus:

### State Government Orders Ban on Stray Dogs at Tourist Destinations

Every year, millions of tourists visit the state's renowned tourist destinations. However, the unrestricted movement of stray dogs and the fear it creates have raised serious concerns about visitor safety. Against this backdrop, the state government has issued directives to curb the presence of stray dogs at tourist sites, as well as at accommodation facilities, rest houses under the Tourism Department's jurisdiction, and their surrounding areas.



The new order prescribes concrete measures to prevent stray dogs from entering major tourist spots, beaches, forts, religious sites, tourist hotels, and other high-footfall areas. Plans will be implemented to remove stray dogs from the zone, with support from local self-government bodies and relevant authorities, to ensure their rehabilitation and prevent their reoccurrence. This decision is likely to play a pivotal role in addressing the growing menace of stray dogs and boosting the safety and confidence of tourists.

### Holiday Season Drives Tourist Surge at Sinhagad, One Lakh Visitors in Just 20 Days

With the festival season at its peak and the fascination for a historical and beautiful site like Sinhgad Fort, the number of footfalls at Sinhgad Fort has been nothing short of dramatic. Nearly one lakh people have visited the fort in the past 20 days alone, according to figures from the Forest Department.



Approximately 21,662 tourists arrived on 10,831 two-wheelers between December 22, 2025, and January 11, 2026. During the same period, about 37,465 tourists arrived at the fort on 7,493 four-wheelers. Additionally, about 37,000 tourists accessed the fort by private transport. The visitors also showed quite an admiration for the local food culture. Local dishes such as Kanda Bhaji, Pithla Bhakri, and Vangyache Bharit (mashed eggplant) were quite popular among visitors to the Sinhgad area.

## India's First 360-Degree Light and Sound Show at Raigad Fort

The Raigad Fort, once the capital of the Hindavi Swarajya and the proud preserver of the illustrious heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, is soon going to be a sight to behold in its new and dazzling form, thanks to the latest technological advancements. This historic fort is all set to welcome history buffs in a completely new manner. The long-awaited 'Light and Sound Show' will be launched at Raigad Fort in the coming days, creating a new chapter in history as it will be the first-ever 360-degree Light and Sound Show in India. As part of the preparations for this mega-event, the Chairman of Raigad Authority, Chhatrapati Sambhajiraje, visited Raigad Fort to check the progress of the ongoing work.



The show, expected to last around 45 minutes, will recreate the defining moments of history through lighting and sound effects. Famous sites such as the Bazaar Area, Holicha Mal, Nagarkhana, Rajsadar, Jagadishwar Temple, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's Samadhi, and other buildings from the Shivkalin period will be brought to life. The show will also showcase the valour of the Mavalas, the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and the inspiring tale of the creation of Swarajya. This show, which aims to blend heritage and technology, is expected to become a major tourist attraction for visitors from across India and around the world.

## Cleanliness Drive for UNESCO-Recognised Forts

Following UNESCO's recognition of 11 forts in Maharashtra as World Heritage Sites, the state government is set to launch a special cleanliness and conservation drive to preserve their historic status. The forts include Raigad, Pratapgad, Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg, Rajgad, Panhala, Salher, Lohagad, Suvarnadurg, Shivneri and Khanderi.

Honourable Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Eknath Shinde, requested the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to launch a special cleanliness drive at the relevant locations to preserve the status of the international heritage site. Keeping this appeal in mind, it was announced by Mr Eknath Shinde at a ceremony that the "Hinduhrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Fort Cleanliness and Conservation Campaign" would be initiated. The campaign would include the help of social organisations operating at the local level and would focus on cleaning the forts on a monthly basis, recycling plastic waste, providing drinking water facilities, and planting trees, all of which would be done under the banner of the slogan, 'Honour the legacy, remove the waste.'



## Experience the Coastal Charm of Konkan

### Diveagar

Diveagar is situated in the Raigad district's Shrivardhan taluka. During the winter season, it comes to life, becoming a lush heaven. The destination is not only famous for its beauty but also for offering adventures. Whether it is taking a stroll along the shore, riding horses along the shoreline, or taking part in banana and speedboat rides, Diveagar has everything that is exciting and unforgettable. Observing local fishing villages in action is fascinating, especially how effortlessly they perform all their chores. Another attraction of Diveagar is the flocks of snow-white seagulls and some migratory birds that lie in wait here.



### Shrivardhan



Every working professional craves moments of bliss away from demanding schedules, and places connected with nature provide just that. The beaches and surrounding areas of Shrivardhan are ideal for travellers seeking peace. With clean beaches, the calm sound of the tide, and the lovely setting, it would not be much of a task for anyone to let go and get immersed in the experience. Shrivardhan has much to offer for the culturally and historically interested tourists. The Lakshmi Narayan Temple, Suvarna Ganesh Temple, and the neighbouring sites, such as Harihareshwar and Diveagar, are part of this itinerary. Shrivardhan thus becomes a must-consider option for those seeking serenity, heritage, and nature's splendour.

### Velas

Near Mandangad and Dapoli lies Velas Beach, famous not for its crowds but for its unique experience of watching the Olive Ridley turtles. Twice every year, from February through mid-April, these endangered species migrate to nest on its shores. In April, an interesting turtle festival is organised nearby in Anjarle, and one gets to experience an unforgettable sight of baby turtles embarking on their first journey to the sea. The cool sea breeze at Velas Beach, its foaming waves, palm trees swaying above, and traditional Konkani cuisine make it an enticing reason to visit.











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