



MAHARASHTRA: **A WORLD WITHIN**

Directorate of Tourism, Tourism Department, GoM

June 2026 / Issue 6



MALSHEJ GHAT



AMBOLI



KOYNANAGAR

Events That Define Maharashtra

June 2026 showcased Maharashtra's diverse tourism strengths, from spirituality and heritage to innovation and natural beauty. The successful hosting of the Global Spiritual Tourism Conference in Shirdi underscored the state's growing prominence in spiritual tourism, while national honours for the Ajanta and Ellora Caves and the Nashik Wine Country Loop celebrated Maharashtra's rich tourism offerings. Strategic initiatives in the MICE sector and new tourism infrastructure projects reflected continued growth and investment. As the monsoon rejuvenated destinations across the state, Maharashtra continued to offer memorable experiences for travellers from India and around the world.

• Events That Define Maharashtra

Global Spiritual Tourism Conference Successfully Held in Shirdi

The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Maharashtra Tourism, and Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi, successfully organised the 3rd edition of its Global Spiritual Tourism Conference, "Ruhmantic", on 12–13 June 2026 at the Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust auditorium in Shirdi.

The conference brought together senior policymakers, tourism leaders, temple administrators, hospitality stakeholders, travel planners, tourism organisations, and spiritual institutions to discuss the future of India's rapidly expanding spiritual tourism sector. A key focus of the deliberations was the upcoming **Simhastha Kumbh Mela 2027–28** in Nashik and Trimbakeshwar.



Maharashtra Tops Tourism Rankings – Ajanta–Ellora Caves and Nashik Honoured

Maharashtra's tourism sector received prestigious recognition at the India Today Tourism Summit and Awards 2026. The Ajanta and Ellora Caves were honoured with the Readers' Choice Award in the Heritage Destination category, while the Nashik Wine Country Loop received the Editors' Choice Award under the Indian Routes category.



The awards were accepted on behalf of the Maharashtra Tourism by Mr Santosh Jadhav, Joint Director of Tourism, and Mr Chandrashekhar Jaiswal, General Manager, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC). The awards were presented by Union Tourism Minister Mr Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Chief Minister of Goa Mr Pramod Sawant in the presence of Mr Arun Puri and Mr Raj Chengappa. The recognition celebrates Maharashtra's rich cultural heritage and its continued excellence in tourism development.

• Event to look forward to:

Ashadhi Wari – A Journey of Devotion and Faith



Maharashtra, the land of saints and enduring devotion, comes alive every year during the sacred Ashadhi Wari pilgrimage to Pandharpur. Celebrated during the Hindu months of Jyeshtha and Ashadha, the Wari transforms the state into a vibrant expression of faith and spirituality. The pilgrimage offers a unique blend of human emotion, discipline, devotion, and breathtaking natural beauty. Every year, millions of Warkaris undertake a journey on foot spanning hundreds of kilometres while chanting the name of Lord Vitthal.

The iconic Ringan ceremonies, the procession along the historic Mumbai–Pune route, and the breathtaking passage through Dive Ghat near Saswad create unforgettable experiences for devotees and visitors alike. The Wari also attracts scholars, researchers, and tourists from across India and abroad who seek to experience Maharashtra's spiritual traditions, folk culture, and saintly heritage firsthand. This Ashadhi Wari, immerse yourself in an extraordinary ocean of devotion and join a centuries-old spiritual tradition.

• News in Focus

Maharashtra Strengthens Its Position in the Global MICE Market

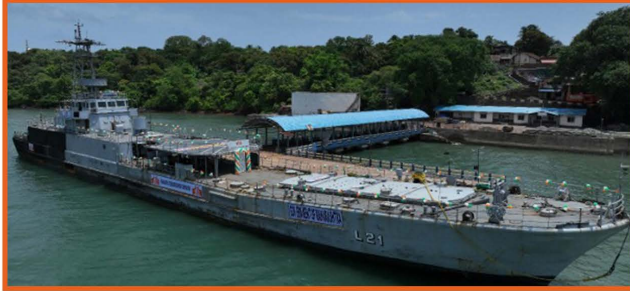
Maharashtra Tourism has announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Maharashtra Convention Bureau (MCB) and Jochen Witt Consulting (JWC GmbH), one of the world's leading consulting firms in the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) sector.



The agreement was signed in the presence of Mr Sanjay Khandare (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary (Tourism), Govt. of Maharashtra; Mr Vijay Powar, Deputy Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra; Mr Jochen Witt, President and Partner of JWC GmbH; Mr Sebastian Witt, Partner at JWC GmbH, and Mr Vijay Sharma, Executive Director (India and Southeast Asia) of JWC GmbH. The strategic partnership aims to position Maharashtra as a premier destination for international business events. To further this vision, the Department of Tourism has established the Maharashtra Convention Bureau to attract world-class conferences, exhibitions, and corporate events to Mumbai and other major cities across the state, thereby enhancing Maharashtra's global presence in the MICE industry.

• News in Focus

Tourists to Experience Sindhudurg's Underwater Wonders



Visitors will soon have the opportunity to explore the spectacular underwater world of Sindhudurg firsthand. Construction of India's first tourism-focused submarine has commenced at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). The 24-seater submarine is expected to be operational by the end of 2027. Advanced technical systems are currently being developed to support its operation.

Passenger amenities will include charging facilities, docking stations, a control room, maintenance infrastructure, communication systems, battery management technology, and emergency response mechanisms. All facilities are being designed in accordance with international safety standards while taking into account changing marine weather conditions and tidal variations.

Glass Skywalk at Dabhosa Waterfall to Become a New Tourist Attraction

A glass skywalk overlooking the picturesque Dabhosa Waterfall in Jawhar Taluka is set to become a major attraction for visitors. Beyond boosting tourism, the project is expected to create new employment opportunities for local youth. Developed under the District Planning Committee's Tourism Development Scheme at an estimated cost of ₹2 crore, the skywalk is the first project of its kind in Palghar district.

During the monsoon season, thousands of visitors flock to Dabhosa to witness the waterfall in its full glory. The new skywalk will offer panoramic views, enhancing the overall visitor experience. Tourism experts believe that projects like these strengthen rural tourism while creating market opportunities for local culture, arts, and cuisine. The Dabhosa Skywalk is expected to further establish Jawhar as a prominent tourism destination and contribute significantly to local economic development.



• News in Focus

Mandatory Star Classification for Hotels and Homestays Abolished; Heritage Tourism Set to Gain Momentum

Amendments introduced under the Maharashtra Tourism Policy 2024 have relaxed several mandatory requirements for hotels, homestays, bed-and-breakfast establishments, and vacation rental homes. The revised provisions are expected to encourage rural tourism, farm stays, villas, holiday homes, and heritage tourism.



Under the new government resolution, obtaining a Central Government star-category certification is no longer mandatory for hotels. Previously, establishments were required to meet one-to five-star classification standards. Going forward, accommodation facilities that offer services aligned with the Ministry of Tourism's hospitality guidelines and have at least 10 rooms with attached bathrooms will qualify as hotels. The move is expected to provide significant relief to small and medium-sized hospitality operators.

Shivrushti Project to Bring the Legacy of Swarajya to Life

Tourism Minister Shri Shambhuraj Desai has stated that the Shivrushti Project will play a vital role in bringing the history, ideals, and vision of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to future generations. The project is also expected to stimulate tourism and support the development of the Ghodbunder Fort precinct. A review meeting was recently held at Mantralaya in the presence of Transport Minister Shri Pratap Sarnaik and senior officials from the Tourism Department, MTDC, and Mira-Bhayandar Municipal Corporation. During the meeting, various components of the project were reviewed in detail. The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation will provide full financial support for the project.



Top Monsoon Destinations of Maharashtra

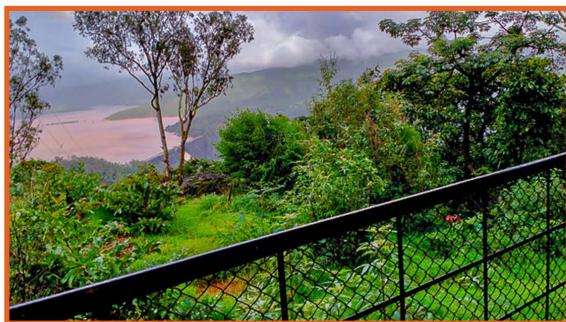
Malshej Ghat



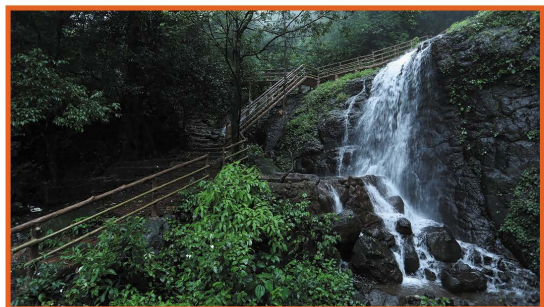
The Konkan railway may be Maharashtra's monsoon icon, but Malshej Ghat is its unsung poem. The plateau waterfalls cascade across the ghats in sheets, flamingos occasionally shelter in the water bodies near Pimpalgaon Joga Dam, and the entire landscape operates under a near-constant veil of cloud. The fort of Harishchandragad nearby draws the serious trekker, while the ghats themselves satisfy anyone who simply wants to stand in the rain and feel unreasonably glad to be alive.

Koynanagar

Long before travellers discovered the vocabulary of slow tourism, Koyna Nagar was already practising it. Built around the vast Shiv Sagar Lake, formed by the Koyna Dam, this small lake town in Satara district sits within an eco-sensitive zone where development has been, by necessity and by choice, kept to a minimum. In July, the forests thicken visibly by the day, and the boat ride across Shiv Sagar to reach the trailhead for Vasota Fort is one of those journeys that renders the destination almost secondary.



Amboli



Amboli sits at the southern edge of Maharashtra's Konkan coast, a hill station so lush and so consistently overlooked that its waterfalls and viewpoints feel like genuine discoveries even in the age of Instagram. The Amboli Ghat receives some of the heaviest rainfall in the Sahyadris, and the forest here, home to the rare Amboli bush frog, is the real headline. July is when the mist settles lowest, the waterfalls run highest, and the frogs sing loudest. It is, quietly, one of Maharashtra's finest monsoon secrets.



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