



MAHARASHTRA A WORLD WITHIN

Directorate of Tourism, Tourism Department, GoM

May 2026 / Issue 5



AARE WARE BEACH



KALU WATERFALL



CHIKHALDARA

Events That Define Maharashtra

May 2026 sustained Maharashtra's strong tourism momentum, with the state coming alive through a vibrant mix of seasonal attractions, cultural festivities, and key industry events. The iconic Mango Festival at Kunkeshwar drew visitors to the Konkan coast, celebrating the region's Alphonso harvest in all its glory. The Destination Management Organisations (DMO) Workshop reinforced the state's commitment to destination management excellence. Across Maharashtra, traveller interest remained strong, reflecting the state's enduring appeal through every season.

Mango Festival 2026 Receives Enthusiastic Response from Visitors



The Mango Festival 2026 is drawing a warm and enthusiastic response from tourists across the region. Organised by the Maharashtra Tourism Department to boost tourism in the Konkan region and promote local culture and heritage, the festival is being held as part of the golden jubilee celebrations of the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC). The event was inaugurated by Shri. Santosh Rokade, Deputy Secretary, Department of Tourism. A rich mix of cultural performances, exhibitions of local products and traditional Konkani food has given the festival a flavour

The festival is built around the Farm-to-Table concept and has been organised under the leadership of the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Shri. Shambhuraj Desai and Minister of State for Tourism Shri. Indranil Naik. The initiative is being steered by Additional Chief Secretary (Tourism) Shri. Sanjay Khandare (IAS) and MTDC's Managing Director Shri. Neelesh R. Gatne (IAS), with the Department of Tourism's Deputy Secretary Shri. Santosh Rokade, MTDC's General Manager, Shri. Chandrashekhar Jaiswal, other departmental officials, and resort management teams are working closely together to make the festival a success.

Destination Management Workshop Held to Expedite Development of Tourist Destinations

With the aim of strengthening tourism administration across the state and accelerating the development of world-class tourist destinations, the Government of Maharashtra organised a high-level workshop on Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) on May 12, 2026, at Trident Hotel, Nariman Point, Mumbai.



The workshop was held under the MahaSTRIDE initiative, supported by the World Bank and implemented by the Directorate of Tourism, Maharashtra. Maharashtra Institution for Transformation (MITRA) is the programme management agency for the initiative.

One of the highlights of the day was a special panel discussion on the "Role of DMOs and USP of Maharashtra - You Will Find India Here," which brought together MITRA CEO Shri. Praveen Pardeshi (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary of Tourism, Shri. Sanjay Khandare (IAS), MTDC's Managing Director, Shri. Neelesh Gatne (IAS), Saffron Stays' Co-founder, Shri. Devendra Parulekar, Active Experiences LLP's Chief Experience Officer, Shri. Wasim Shaikh and several other tourism sector experts.

Maharashtra Tejotsav Celebrated with Great Enthusiasm in Alandi – Devotion, Culture and Light Leave Visitors Spellbound

The Maharashtra Tejotsav was celebrated in grand style in Alandi, a town revered as the birthplace of Sant Dnyaneshwar Mauli and the spiritual heart of the Varkari tradition. The three-day event was held at Indrayani Ghat from May 12 to May 14, 2026.



Speaking on the occasion, Honourable Minister of Tourism Shri. Shambhuraj Desai said, "Maharashtra's cultural traditions are one of the state's greatest strengths. Initiatives like Maharashtra Tejotsav not only preserve and celebrate our culture but also help establish Maharashtra as a significant cultural tourism destination at the national and global level. This grand event has lit up Alandi with the glow of devotion, culture and art."

• Event to look forward to:

Grand 'Sea-Side Yoga Festival' in Mumbai on International Yoga Day

To mark International Yoga Day, a grand 'Sea-Side Yoga Festival' is being organised on June 21, 2026, at Priyadarshini Park in Mumbai. The event is a joint initiative by Yogic Gurukul, Priyadarshini Park, and several other organisations, with support from the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC). Starting at 6 in the morning, thousands of yoga enthusiasts will gather along the scenic seaside to practice together. The festival aims to promote a healthy lifestyle, raise awareness about physical and mental well-being, and bring the significance of yoga to as many people as possible.



• News in Focus

Konkan Tourism Thrives Despite Scorching Summer Heat



The sweltering summer hasn't dampened the spirits of travellers. Weekend footfall at tourist destinations across Ratnagiri district continues to surge, even as temperatures climb one to two degrees above normal, touching 35–40°C in several parts of the region. The rising heat and humidity have nudged tourists toward air-conditioned accommodation, driving room tariffs up by as much as 40%. This season, the busiest spots have been the coastal stretches of Dapoli taluka, Ganpatipule, and Guhagar. Ganpatipule temple alone is recording a daily footfall of 15,000 to 20,000 visitors, a testament to Konkan's enduring pull, heat be damned.

Minister of Tourism Mr Shambhuraj Desai Pledges Push for Raigad's Tourism Development



Minister of Tourism Mr Shambhuraj Desai has directed the Tourism Department to fast-track funding for ongoing development projects in Raigad district. He was speaking at a review meeting held at Meghdoot Government Residence, focused on tourism infrastructure under the Raigad Lok Sabha constituency. The meeting was attended by Women and Child Development Minister Aditi Tatkar, Minister of Tourism for the State Mr Indranil Naik, Member of Parliament Mr Sunil Tatkar, Additional Chief Secretary (Tourism) Mr Sanjay Khandare (IAS), and Managing Director of Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation Mr Neelesh Gatne (IAS), along with district officials who joined via video conferencing.

Agro-Tourism Sees 20% Growth, Nashik District Now Home to 75 Centres

Agri-tourism was once a quiet supplement to farm income, but today it is having its moment. The sector has recorded nearly 20% growth over the past year across Nashik district, with farmers increasingly embracing it as a viable livelihood option. The Nashik division now has 110 active agri-tourism projects in total, with 75 of them concentrated in Nashik district alone, spread across districts including Dhule, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, and Ahilyanagar.

The Maharashtra government's Agri-Tourism Policy of September 2020 gave the sector its initial boost, and post-COVID interest has only accelerated the momentum. Hotspots like Trimbakeshwar, Igatpuri, Niphad, Makhmalabad, Pimpalgaon, and Wadivhare are emerging as go-to getaways. City dwellers, particularly from Nashik, are increasingly opting for one-day excursions or overnight farm stays, with operators offering ready-made packages to suit both preferences.

Maharashtra Tourism Lights Up London Buses

Fresh off its high-profile appearance on New York's Times Square on Maharashtra Day, the state's 'Unique Maharashtra' (Advitiya Maharashtra) campaign is now turning heads in London, quite literally. The campaign's branding, displayed across London buses, has sparked a wave of emotion and pride among the Marathi diaspora in the UK. A reel of a young Marathi resident in London reacting to spotting the advertisement has gone massively viral on social media.



The global outreach campaign is being spearheaded by the Honourable Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and Sunetra Pawar, with Tourism Minister Shambhuraj Desai leading the charge to cement Maharashtra's identity on the world tourism map. The campaign is widely seen as not only rekindling a sense of belonging among overseas Marathis but also drawing the attention of international tourists to the state's rich cultural and natural heritage.

Tourism Department Cancels All Overseas Tours Amid National Austerity Drive

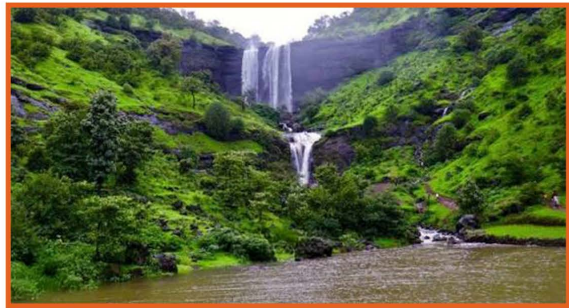
In a significant policy move prompted by the West Asia crisis, Maharashtra's Tourism Department has cancelled all upcoming international tours and delegations with immediate effect. Honourable Minister of Tourism, Shri. Shambhuraj Desai issued the directive as part of a broader state-level response to conserve fuel and foreign exchange reserves.

"In response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's national appeal and on the advice of Honourable Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, we have taken this important step. I urge both government machinery and citizens across the state to actively participate in this campaign to conserve fuel and foreign currency for the nation's overall economic well-being," Minister of Tourism, Shri. Shambhuraj Desai said.

An official order to this effect has been issued to the Additional Chief Secretary of the Tourism Department, with instructions for immediate compliance across all concerned departments and officers.

Top Summer Destinations of Maharashtra

Igatpuri



Igatpuri, in Nashik district, is one of Maharashtra's most loved monsoon destinations. Come June, the mountain ranges, cascading waterfalls and lush green landscapes draw visitors in droves. The Bhatsa River Valley, Kavnai Fort, Tringalwadi Fort, and Vaitarna Dam are among its star attractions. For those with a taste for adventure and trekking, Igatpuri is hard to beat. It sits right on the Mumbai-Nashik highway, about 120 km from Mumbai and 45 km from Nashik, making it an easy and worthwhile escape from the city.

Tamhini Ghat

Sitting on the border of Pune and Raigad districts, Tamhini Ghat truly comes alive during the monsoon. In June, countless waterfalls spring to life, mountains disappear into low-hanging clouds, and the valleys turn a vivid, almost unreal shade of green. It's a favourite spot for photographers, nature lovers and anyone looking for a scenic weekend drive. The Mulshi Dam area adds to the charm, offering views that are hard to forget. Just about 50 km from Pune, Tamhini Ghat pulls in thousands of visitors every monsoon season.



Lonavala



Lonavala is arguably Maharashtra's most popular hill station, and the monsoon only makes it better. As the rains roll in through June, the whole landscape transforms. Bhushi Dam, Tiger Point, Lion's Point, Rajmachi Fort and the Karla-Bhaja caves are just some of the highlights. Cloud-draped hills, roaring waterfalls and a cool breeze make it a great getaway for families. With easy access from both Mumbai (around 85 km) and Pune (around 65 km), it's the go-to weekend destination for city dwellers on both sides.



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