



**Nikhil Desai**  
Managing Director, Goa  
Tourism Development Cor-  
poration (GTDC)

## Goa to host Vth Delphic Games in 2016

**Goa will form the venue for the country's first Delphic Games and Goa Tourism is going great guns with its adventure tourism activities and MICE projects.**

In a major initiative to wean away a large chunk of domestic and global tourists and to offer a boost to Goan art and culture, Goa Tourism has drawn up grandiose plans to host Vth Youth Delphic Games in the state sometime in October 2016. There are various facets of tourism in Goa and Goa Tourism is going the extra mile to kick-start a host of its cherished projects in the ongoing period.

The Vth Youth Delphic Games that forms the only global platform for art and culture will be held for the first time in the country. According to Nikhil Desai, Managing Director, Goa Tourism Development Corporation

(GTDC), "The forthcoming Delphic Games is expected to have around 7,000 participants and entice over 125 countries. There will be six art categories and 70 sub-categories with a wide range of fun and artistic events for all. The major art categories will be musical art and sound, performing arts, language arts, visual arts, social arts and ecological arts and architecture. We intend to offer a boost to the event across the globe. Very soon, we would roll out an e-commerce portal in order to facilitate an easy access of info for tourists. The portal will have a multi-lingual website and round-the-clock call centre."

Besides, Goa Tourism is into aggressive promotion of E-Tourist Visa Facility (ETV) with 113 global countries included in it. Nearly 28,000-plus global visitors have made use of ETV and Goa Tourism is working in close association with Airports Authority of India to ensure that global tourists are readily provided with ETVs on arrival at Goa Airport in Dabolim.

Desai said, "It's been past three years that we have introduced white water rafting in river Mhadei during monsoon. We have just kicked off hot air balloon service and amphibious vessels will begin soon. Our sea plane project will take off in December. by TNH DESK



## Discover Goa - Pearl of the Orient

Beautifully located on the western coast of India, Goa is one of the most favorite tourist destinations in India. Enclosed by Arabian Sea in the west, Goa is blessed with amazing geographical features. With sparkling golden beaches to ancient monuments and picturesque landscapes to remarkable kaleidoscopic culture, it attracts a large number of tourists (both domestic & international) every year. Though, all seasons are good to enjoy this place's beauty but the winter season which starts from mid-November and lasts till mid-March is the best time to discover the ecstatic picture of this lively place. With the start of peak season for travelers to Goa, Travel and Hospitality magazine would like to suggest some great ways to discover its beauty....

### By Archana Sharma

**Party Hard – As Goa is Party Capital** Internationally, Goa is best known as the "Party Capital of India" and many foreigners come here to enjoy the parties organized here. For instance, the 3 day Sunburn music festival is thronged by EDM lovers. In fact, it is Asia's largest electronic music festival, hosted on 27, 28 and 29 December every year. The next music festival is "Supersonic Festival", held at Candolim which promotes

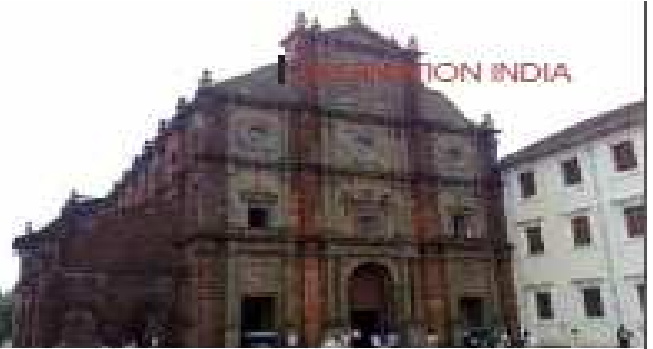
local and international talents. Another highlight of peak season is the Saturday Night Markets which starts from 6 pm and remains open till the wee hours of morning. Here, one can find amazing music, food, clothes and accessories, vintage items and live concerts (if you get lucky!). Rest of all, the New Year's Eve is the most exhilarating event of the year (in December). Then, in the month of February, 3-4 days celebration of Goa

Carnival is the event of merrymaking. This carnival adds spice to the party spirit of Goa.

### Enjoy Adventurous Water Sports at Popular Beaches

Goa is known for its Sun and Sand combination at the beaches. But, apart from just enjoying water at beaches there is a lot you can do. Goa is an excellent destination for variety of adven-





funnel water sports that can be enjoyed at beaches. Some of popular adventurous water activities or sports you can take up include water skiing, Jet Skiing, Wind Surfing, Parasailing, Galapagan Sailing, Banana Boat / Stump & Ramp Rides, Speedboat rides, Snuba diving / Snorkeling etc. Some of the popular beaches to enjoy these water sports are Baga Beach, Vagator Beach, Calangute Beach, Benaulim Beach and Palolem Beach etc., while Miramar Beach, Colva Beach, Majorda Beach and Dona Paula Beach are few of the beaches to relax. Along with these activities, Dolphin cruise, Grand Island day trip and sunset / moonlight cruise on the Mandovi River can also be tried if you have extra time.

**Indulge in Nature's Bliss**

Goa is blessed with almost all kind of wealth, be it golden beaches and its under-water animals, or wealthy fauna on land. In order to experience Goa's nature and wildlife, you must explore few attractions such as the Sahakar spice farm in Ponda, where you can enjoy regional and folk dances. Also, one can go for an overnight stay in the Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary to spot night animals. Later, you can opt

for Arvalem, Langan and Rivona caves which are an evidence of prehistoric existence.

**Journey into the Heritage**

Once a major Portuguese colony, Goa boasts of remarkable architecture and artifacts related to Indo-Portuguese era. However, the true feel of Goa's rich heritage and culture can be felt at the Old Goa, which is about 20 minutes west of Panaji. In this ancient hub, you can explore beautiful churches, convents, art galleries, bungalows and bakeries which are living evidences of rich combination of Indian and Portuguese culture. Though, there is an array of monuments to see but the magnificent Basilica of Bom Jesus, which is a UN-ESCO World Heritage Site, is something which is a must! Apart from that, you can revisit history at Se de Santa Catarina, the Archaeological Museum of Old Goa, the Naval Aviation Museum and Institute Monsen Braganza and get transported back in time.

**Delish Gourmet Delights**

Often, it is said that any place's specialty lies in its food, and such is in the case of Goa! When you are in Goa, you

can't miss the delicacies such as Goan prawn curry and rice, which is a staple but traditional dish of Goa. However, the Goan cuisine offers a fine combination of diverse food cultures including the Konkani, the Portuguese and the Islamani Nawabi traditions. Some popular eating joints and restaurants where you can enjoy authentic and delicious Goan delicacies are Infantina (at Calangute beach), Carly's (at Anjuna) and Souza Lobo (at Calangute).

**Rejuvenate Yourself**

Last but not the least, Goa is an ideal place to unwind and rejuvenate your senses. Apart from the water sports and sight-seeing, Goa has an array of Yoga / meditation, and rehab centres. The Ayurvedic treatment in the Kon village is a prime Ayurvedic centre in Goa. In short, you can go partying at the beach (especially during winter season like, Sunburn Festival, Goa Carnival etc.), enjoy water sports, try your bargaining skills in shopping at Ingo's Saturday Night Bazaar, Anjuna Flea Market, and market near Mangeshi temple.

