

## Goa Carnival 2016 promises to bring more colour and vibrancy to the state

Collaborations of ideas between UK, South Africa and Goa entitled 'Destination Carnival' to mark Goa Carnival 2016



### Wonderlust Bureau

Goa Tourism has announced plans that the State has drawn up to celebrate Goa Carnival 2016. The festivities will begin on February 6 and wind up on February 9. This year's event will be one of the most colourful and vibrant editions of the Carnival ever seen. Goa Tourism announced all its plans for Carnival at a press conference held in the national capital. The press conference was addressed by Dilip Parulekar, Minister for Tourism, Government of Goa and Nikhil Desai, Managing Director of Goa Tourism Development Corporation.

Unveiling the 2016 edition of Carnival, Goa Tourism elaborated on the hard work that is being put in round-the-clock this year to position Goa Carnival as a Premiere State tourism event and is working on this project in association with Brouhaha International, an arts organization based in Liverpool- United Kingdom. The project is entitled 'Destination Carnival' which is aimed at exchange of ideas and talents across three countries namely UK, South Africa and Goa India.

Carnival is Goa's tribute to its diverse population and heritage; it aims to spread a message of peace, unity and harmony. Carnival 2016 promises to be exciting this year and the four day event will begin from February 6. The main float parade will be held in the capital city- Panjim on February 6, followed by float parades in the other cities of Margao on February 7, Vasco on February 8 and Mapusa on February 9.

Dilip Parulekar said, "The Goa Carnival is one



Dilip Parulekar



Nikhil Desai

of the biggest highlights in the state and the country. It is a colourful and vibrant spectacle which gives one a glimpse into Goa's glorious past and is a shining example of how traditions have been carried over time."

Parulekar also added that the Carnival celebrations attract tourists from all over. "Since this is a one-of-a-kind event we have people from all over the globe coming in. While the spirit of this celebration is contagious, we have taken into account aspects like safety, security and cleanliness which will ensure that the cele-

Goa is already abuzz with activity and excitement for several reasons.

#### Adventure Tourism

For the first time Goa has taken adventure tourism to new heights. Hot Air Balloons, Amphibious Vessels (Duck Boats), Seaplanes have been launched giving an all new perspective to adventure tourism. While full-fledged operations of the Hot Air Balloons have begun, full-fledged operations of the Seaplanes and Amphibious Vessels (Duck Boats) will begin shortly. Helicopter rides, Motorized Paragliding and paragliding, Segway Tours, Bungee jumping, Scuba Diving and Horse Riding trails are also set to begin with a few weeks.

#### E-Tourist Visa facility

The E-Tourist Visa facility (E-TV) launched by the central government in December 2014 has proven to be a big boon for Goa. With the initial launch of the facility to 43 countries and periodic inclusions has taken the list to 113 countries. Within a year as many as 50,000 ETVs have been issued at the Goa airport, Dabolim to foreign nationals from around 65 countries.

#### Safety and Security of tourists

The water and beach patrol with 676 life guards and an additional 117 personnel on beach patrol till midnight, tourist police to crack the whip on touting and the women taxi service- an exclusive service for women tourists and women passengers reassures tourists visiting Goa that Goa Tourism has not compromised on the safety cover for tourists visiting the State.

#### Beach cleaning initiatives

Goa Tourism showcases to the world its clean beaches emanating from the Comprehensive Beach Cleaning Management Plan and other Clean Beach initiatives. The scientific mechanisms introduced for collection, segregation and disposal is showing good results. The Whatsapp initiative is also working well and the Green Warriors initiative which will be launched shortly will add more feathers to the clean and green campaigns flagged by the Goa Tourism.

#### Delphic Games 2016

Goa Tourism will soon be 'Celebrating Arts and Cultures' through the conduct of the Delphic Games this year. The Vth Youth Delphic Games is the world's only common floor for art and culture which is coming to India for the first time. The Vth Youth Delphic Games is presumed to attract 125 countries with over 7000 participants, six art categories and over 70 sub-categories, with many parallel artistic and fun events and activities for everyone.

#### All new interactive website and APP by GTDC

The Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) is launching an all new interactive website and App. This will facilitate access to information and tourism services at the click of a button. The new website and App will revolutionize the face of Goa Tourism and attract young and tech-savvy travelers from across the globe.

bration is a truly memorable one."

King Momo, the legendary character who declares the Carnival open, will be chosen shortly. The process of selecting the person who plays King Momo is an elaborate one and sees enthusiastic participation from young men in Goa.

Anticipating a larger participation and tourist footfalls for Carnival in Goa this year, the state authorities are drawing up elaborate plans and measures to ensure 100 per cent safety for everyone and have increased deployment of police force at tourist spots. The process of increasing room inventory for tourists is also on.

The Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) is also organizing the annual Wine Festival 'Grape Escapade 2016' from February 4-7, 2016 at the D B Bhandodkar Grounds, Campal. 'Grape Escapade' is Asia's biggest wine festivals where all the big names in the industry converge to dialogue, taste wines and engage in B2B with stakeholders in the tourism and hospitality sector.

An array of programmes, folklore, music and dance performances will be presented, while food courts and Goan delicacies will also be banqueted during the five day wine festival.