

APRIL 2026

TOURISM NEWSLETTER

GTDC CELEBRATES 44TH CORPORATION DAY AT PANAJI RIVERFRONT

The Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) celebrated its 44th Corporation Day on April 8, 2026, at the Riverfront in Panaji, marking another milestone in its continued efforts to strengthen Goa's tourism sector and enhance the state's tourism ecosystem.



The event was attended by key dignitaries including Rohan A. Khaunte, GTDC Chairman Kedar J. Naik, and Managing Director Kuldeep Arolkar, along with senior officials, staff members, and their families. During the celebration, leadership highlighted GTDC's role in managing and promoting tourism services across accommodation, transport, and tours, while reaffirming its commitment to sustainable growth and operational efficiency.



The event also brought together employees through engaging activities including a staff fashion show, cultural performances, and games, with participants being recognised and awarded. The occasion reflected GTDC's journey over the years, acknowledging the contribution of its people and reinforcing its ongoing commitment to further positioning Goa as a preferred destination for travellers.



GTDC HOSTED A TRAVEL TRADE DELEGATION FROM UZBEKISTAN FOR A FAMILIARIZATION FAM TOUR

The Goa Department of Tourism hosted a Familiarisation (FAM) Tour in April 2026 for travel agents from Uzbekistan, as part of its continued efforts to promote Goa in international markets. Rooted in the ethos of “Atithi Devo Bhava,” the initiative brought delegates closer to Goa’s culture, hospitality, and tourism offerings, providing them with first-hand experiences of the destination. The engagement aimed to strengthen global travel trade relations while enhancing Goa’s visibility as a preferred travel destination, further supporting the growth of inbound tourism to the state.



GOA TOURISM PARTNERS WITH CARAVELA PICKLEBALL FIESTA AS OFFICIAL TOURISM PARTNER, STRENGTHENING SPORTS-TOURISM VISION



The Goa Department of Tourism partnered as the official tourism partner for the Caravela Sunset Pickleball Fiesta held on April 18–19, 2026, at the Caravela Beach Resort, reinforcing its vision to position Goa as a dynamic, all-season destination. The two-day event brought together over 200 participants, including corporate leaders, entrepreneurs, and sports enthusiasts, blending competitive sport with curated hospitality and networking experiences. The initiative also marked the unveiling of professional-grade beachfront pickleball courts, contributing to Goa’s growing sports infrastructure. It highlighted Goa Tourism’s strategic focus on sports tourism as a key growth driver, further diversifying the state’s tourism offerings and strengthening its appeal as a hub for experiential travel.

GOA TOURISM LAUNCHES GRAND GOA PAVILION AT KITF, HIGHLIGHTING REGENERATIVE AND EXPERIENTIAL TRAVEL FOR KAZAKH VISITORS



The Goa Department of Tourism showcased its global outreach at the Kazakhstan International Tourism Fair 2026 held in Almaty, where it unveiled the Goa Pavilion and positioned the state as a future-ready, high-value destination. Led by Rohan A. Khaunte, the delegation highlighted Goa's focus on regenerative tourism, sustainability, and experiential travel, while strengthening strategic partnerships with Kazakhstan and the wider Central Asian region.



The pavilion presented a diversified tourism narrative, promoting hinterland experiences, wellness tourism, eco-conscious travel, and authentic Goan cuisine, while also facilitating B2B engagements with travel trade stakeholders, media, and potential investors. Goa's participation marked a strategic effort to enhance international connectivity, foster bilateral tourism growth, and expand its presence in emerging global markets, reinforcing its position as a holistic and globally competitive tourism destination.



GOA TOURISM SECURES GLOBAL RECOGNITION AT ICONIC TRAVEL & TOURISM SUMMIT IN DELHI

The Goa Department of Tourism was honoured with the Global Destination Award at the ICONIC Travel & Tourism Summit held at ITC Maurya, marking a significant milestone in Goa's growing recognition on the international tourism stage. The award was received by Shiv Kumar from Goa Sadan on behalf of the state, in the presence of distinguished dignitaries including Kamel Zayed Galal, Aliko Koutsomitopoulou, Mahishini Colonne, and Jyoti Mayal.



This recognition reflected Goa's sustained efforts in evolving as a diverse, high-value tourism destination, driven by a focus on experiential travel, improved infrastructure, and strategic global outreach. It further highlighted the state's commitment to strengthening its tourism ecosystem, enhancing visitor experiences, and expanding its presence across key international markets, reinforcing Goa's position as a preferred destination for travellers worldwide.

SPIRIT OF GOA FESTIVAL 2026' HIGHLIGHTED GOA'S CULINARY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE AT COLVA



The Goa Department of Tourism hosted the 'Spirit of Goa Festival 2026' from April 24 to 26 at the SAG Grounds in Colva, celebrating the state's rich cultural, culinary, and artisanal heritage. The three-day festival brought together Goan cuisine, traditional spirits such as feni, live music, and local craftsmanship, offering visitors an authentic and engaging experience. It featured performances by popular bands and traditional dance troupes, along with interactive elements such as live cooking sessions, workshops, and cultural demonstrations. The event also provided a platform for local artisans and entrepreneurs, reinforcing Goa's focus on cultural tourism and community participation.

MORMUGAO HOSTED ITS FIRST SUMMER FESTIVAL 2026 SHOWCASING GOA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Goa Tourism Development Corporation organised the Mormugao Summer Festival 2026 on April 25 and 26 in Mormugao, celebrating the region's rich cultural heritage through a vibrant mix of traditional and contemporary performances. The two-day festival featured a diverse lineup including folk and classical acts, cultural showcases such as Shigmo, Dindi Procession, and Dashavatar, alongside modern highlights like drone and LED shows, fashion showcases, and live performances by renowned artists including Hema Sardesai and Sudesh Bhosle. The event brought together local communities, artists, and visitors, offering an engaging cultural experience while promoting tourism in the region and reinforcing Mormugao's position as a growing cultural destination in Goa.



GOA TOURISM CONFERRED 'BEST MICE DESTINATION' AT GREAT INDIAN TRAVEL BAZAAR AWARDS (GITB) 2026



The Goa Department of Tourism was conferred the 'Best MICE Destination' award at the Great Indian Travel Bazaar Awards 2026 held in Jaipur, recognising Goa's growing prominence as a leading hub for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions in India. The recognition underscored the state's strategic transition from a predominantly leisure-driven destination to a more diversified, high-value tourism ecosystem, with MICE tourism playing a key role in driving this growth. Backed by strong infrastructure, premium hotels with convention facilities, and seamless domestic and international connectivity, Goa has positioned itself as an ideal destination for both large-scale and bespoke business events. The award also reflected the state's proven capability in hosting high-profile global events and its continued efforts to strengthen its presence in both domestic and international MICE markets.

GOA PARTICIPATED IN THE GREAT INDIAN TRAVEL BAZAAR (GITB) JAIPUR, HIGHLIGHTING ITS MICE TOURISM STRENGTH

The Goa Department of Tourism participated in the Great Indian Travel Bazaar held from April 26 to 28 in Jaipur, where it showcased Goa's growing capabilities in the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) segment to global tour operators. The state pavilion featured participation from a wide range of tourism stakeholders, including hospitality groups, travel operators, and destination management companies, highlighting Goa's diverse offerings for business and experiential travel. The initiative emphasised Goa's strategic focus on expanding its MICE ecosystem by combining world-class infrastructure with authentic local experiences, while reinforcing its position as a year-round, high-value tourism destination in the global market.

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