

MAY 2026

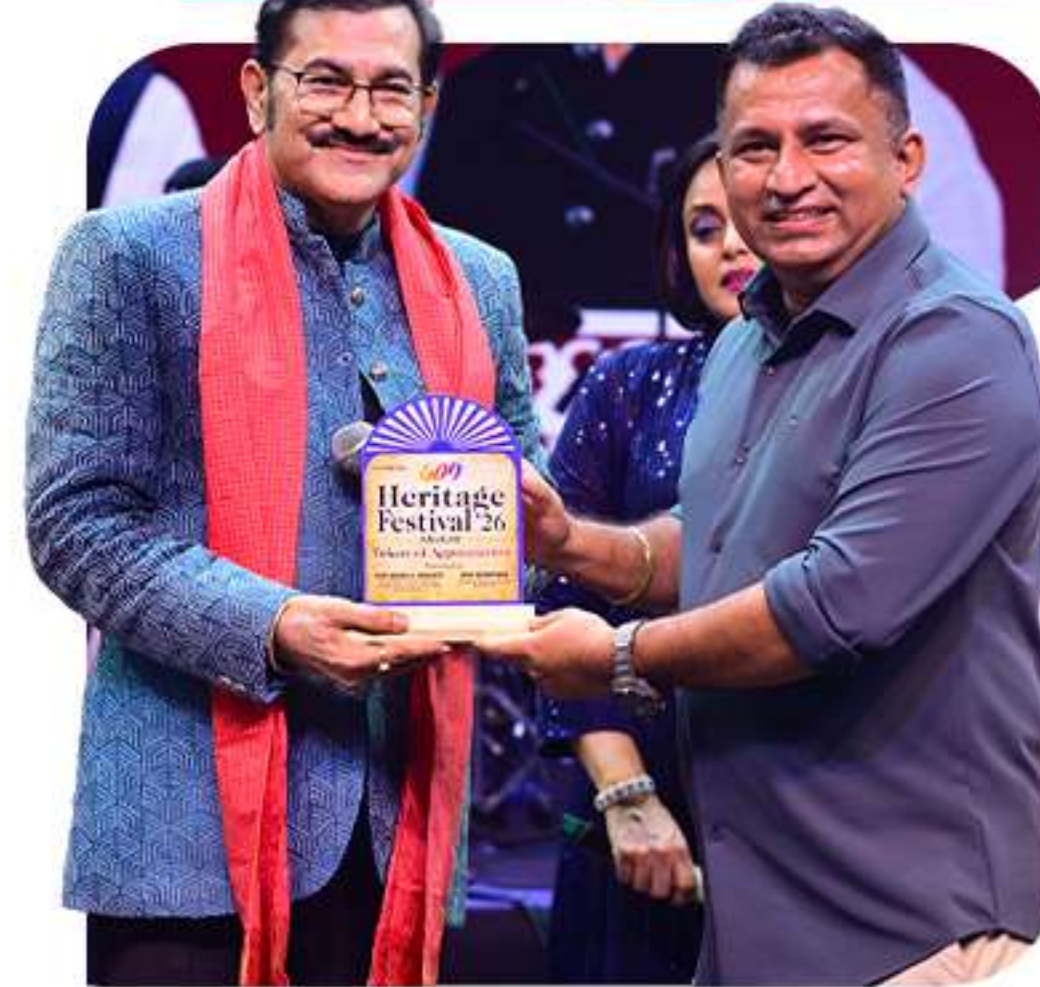


TOURISM NEWSLETTER

GOA HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2026 BRINGS CULTURE, MUSIC & TRADITION TO SALIGAO



The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, in association with the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC), successfully organised the Goa Heritage Festival 2026 from May 8 to 10 at the Football Ground in Saligao. The three-day cultural festival celebrated Goa's rich heritage through music, dance, cuisine, fashion, traditional performances, and community participation, attracting large crowds of locals and tourists. The festival was inaugurated in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Information Technology, Electronics & Communications Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, GTDC Chairman and Saligao MLA Shri Kedar J. Naik, along with dignitaries from the tourism and cultural sectors.



The opening evening featured a brass band procession, Ganesh Vandana, and performances by David Furtado Productions, Harmony Orchestra, and Band Forefront. The second day included a Konkani film screening, LED performances, a fashion showcase, and musical performances. The concluding day featured traditional dances, live music, a felicitation ceremony, artisan stalls, authentic Goan cuisine, shopping experiences, and craft showcases, celebrating Goa's cultural heritage and promoting year-round culture-led tourism while attracting visitors and supporting local artists and entrepreneurs.

GOA TOURISM CONTRIBUTES TO NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON DEVELOPING WORLD-CLASS TOURIST DESTINATIONS

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, participated in the National Consultative Workshop and Review Meeting on “Developing Tourist Destinations to Global Standards”, organised by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, at Kevadia, Gujarat. The consultation brought together tourism ministers, senior government officials, industry stakeholders, and experts from across the country to discuss strategies for strengthening India’s tourism ecosystem and creating globally competitive destinations. The workshop focused on key areas including destination management, tourism infrastructure, sustainability, visitor experience, stakeholder participation, and integrated tourism planning. The initiative aligns with the Government of India’s vision of promoting sustainable and experience-driven tourism while preserving the cultural identity and heritage of destinations across the country.



Goa Tourism’s participation highlighted the state’s continued commitment towards regenerative tourism, destination diversification, and community-led tourism initiatives. The discussions also provided an opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices for enhancing tourism experiences and strengthening tourism governance. Through its active participation in national consultations and policy discussions, Goa Tourism continues to contribute towards shaping the future of Indian tourism while reinforcing Goa’s position as a vibrant, sustainable, and year-round destination for domestic and international visitors.

GOA TOURISM STRENGTHENS RESPONSIBLE TOURISM THROUGH CERTIFIED STORYTELLING INITIATIVE



The Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC), in collaboration with Soul Travelling and Don Bosco College Panaji, successfully concluded the “Certified Storytelling Course” on May 13, 2026, aimed at nurturing a new generation of tourism storytellers and cultural ambassadors in Goa. The initiative focused on promoting responsible, experiential, and sustainable tourism through storytelling, cultural interpretation, and community engagement.



The certificate presentation ceremony was attended by Managing Director, GTDC Shri Kuldeep Arolkar; Mr. Gavin Dias, General Manager Marketing, GTDC; Shri Deepak Narvekar, Deputy General Manager Marketing, GTDC; Prof. Teotone Vaz, Principal of Don Bosco College Panaji; and Mr. Varun Hegde, Founder of Soul Travelling. Participants who successfully completed the programme were felicitated during the ceremony. The course combined classroom sessions with immersive field experiences across heritage and ecological destinations including Old Goa, Fontainhas, and Chorao Island. Participants received training in storytelling, tourism interpretation, hospitality, communication skills, guest engagement, and experiential tourism practices.

The initiative reflected Goa Tourism’s continued commitment towards strengthening sustainable tourism experiences while encouraging community participation, heritage awareness, and cultural storytelling across the state.

DABOLIM MUSICAL WAVES 2026 AMPLIFIES GOA'S ENTERTAINMENT SCENE



“Dabolim Musical Waves 2026” was organised by the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, in association with the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC), on May 16 and 17, 2026, at Joggers Park, Chicalim. The two-day festival was curated as a vibrant celebration of music, culture, entertainment, fashion, food, and community participation. The festival was inaugurated in the presence of Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Information Technology, Electronics & Communications Shri Rohan A. Khaunte and Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department and Dabolim MLA Shri Mauvin Godinho, along with tourism officials, local representatives, artists, and members of the community.

Live performances were presented by popular bands and artists including Abhang Repost, K K Sonic, 7Notes, and Kutumb Bollywood Band. Traditional Goan folk performances, dance acts, and fashion showcases by Verma D'Mello were also featured as part of the festival programme, creating a vibrant atmosphere across the venue. Dedicated food and beverage stalls, local shopping experiences, family-friendly engagement spaces, and interactive activities were made available for visitors throughout the event. Opportunities were also provided for local artists, performers, and businesses to showcase their talent and offerings. Through initiatives such as Dabolim Musical Waves 2026, year-round tourism experiences continue to be promoted by Goa Tourism while entertainment, lifestyle, and community-driven tourism initiatives are being strengthened across different regions of the state.



GOA TOURISM HOLDS STRATEGIC MONSOON MEETING WITH INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS

The Goa Department of Tourism organised a Monsoon Promotion Stakeholder Meeting on May 20, 2026, under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte. The meeting brought together key tourism stakeholders and industry leaders to discuss plans and collaborative initiatives for the upcoming monsoon tourism season in Goa.



The meeting was attended by Secretary Tourism Shri Sandeep Jacques, IAS; Director of Tourism Shri Kedar Naik; Managing Director, GTDC Shri Kuldeep Arolkar; TTAG President Shri Jack Sukhija; OSD to Tourism Minister Shri Shawn Mendes, along with representatives from the tourism and hospitality sectors.



Discussions focused on new monsoon tourism initiatives, visitor experiences, tourism projections, promotional campaigns, and collaborative efforts aimed at strengthening Goa's position as a year-round tourism destination. Special emphasis was placed on promoting hinterland tourism, eco-tourism, wellness experiences, cultural activities, waterfalls, spice plantations, and nature-based tourism during the monsoon season. The meeting highlighted the Department's continued efforts towards enhancing tourism experiences through industry participation, destination promotion, and coordinated tourism development initiatives across the state. The discussions also focused on creating immersive monsoon experiences that encourage visitors to explore Goa beyond its traditional tourism offerings.



GOA SHACKATHON 2026 POSITIONS GOA AS A LEADING WORKATION DESTINATION

Goa Shackathon 2026 was organised on May 21–22, 2026, at Baga Beach by the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, in collaboration with DITE&C and ITGCL. The event was attended by Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, ITGCL Chairman Shri Chandrakant Shetye, MLA Shri Michael Lobo, GTDC Chairman Shri Kedar J. Naik, and senior government officials. The programme featured discussions on AI, robotics, startups, and innovation, while also honouring local trainees and women achievers, reinforcing Goa's vision for innovation, entrepreneurship, and the "Work from Goa" ecosystem. The event attracted entrepreneurs, creators, and technology enthusiasts from across the country. It highlighted Goa's emergence as a hub for innovation-driven tourism and collaborative work experiences.



GOA TOURISM HONoured BY MORMUGAO PORT AUTHORITY FOR CRUISE TOURISM SUPPORT



The Goa Department of Tourism was honoured with the "Award of Excellence" by the Mormugao Port Authority on May 22, 2026, in recognition of its continued support towards handling cruise vessels during the financial year 2025–26. The award was received on behalf of Goa Tourism by Managing Director, GTDC Shri Kuldeep Arolkar and Assistant Director of Tourism Shri Jayesh Kankonkar. The recognition acknowledged the Department's contribution towards operational coordination, passenger facilitation, and the continued promotion of cruise tourism in the state. The honour further highlighted Goa's growing prominence as one of India's leading cruise tourism destinations, supported by improved tourism infrastructure and increasing domestic and international cruise movement. The achievement also reflected the collaborative efforts undertaken by Goa Tourism and the Mormugao Port Authority towards strengthening the state's maritime tourism ecosystem and enhancing overall visitor experiences.

GALLERY

