

JULY 2026

TOURISM NEWSLETTER

CHIKHAL KALO 2026

CELEBRATING GOA'S LIVING TRADITIONS

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa successfully organised the three-day Chikhal Kalo Festival 2026 at the Shree Devki Krishna Temple, Marcel, celebrating one of Goa's most cherished monsoon festivals. Set against the backdrop of Goa's magical monsoons, the festival brought together ancient traditions, devotional customs, traditional music, dance and local delicacies in a vibrant celebration of the state's spiritual and cultural heritage. Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte actively participated throughout the festival, reaffirming Goa Tourism's commitment to preserving and promoting Goa's rich cultural legacy.

DAY 1 | A GRAND OPENING

The festival was inaugurated by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant, in the presence of Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, GTDC Chairman Shri Kedar Naik, MLA Shri Govind Gaude, BJP Goa President Shri Damodar Naik, officials from the Department of Tourism and GTDC, along with a large gathering of devotees and visitors. The opening day's highlight was the mesmerising 'Abhangwari' performance by acclaimed vocalist Mahesh Kale, followed by 'Anubhooti' by Tanvi Walawalkar & The Heart of Jogan Band. A traditional cooking competition further added to the festive spirit, celebrating Goa's rich culinary heritage.





Shree Devki Krishna Temple, Marcela, Goa

DAY 2 | A SOULFUL CELEBRATION

The second day featured an evening of traditional Bhajans, bringing together devotees and visitors in a soulful celebration of faith, music and spirituality. The devotional performances reflected the enduring traditions and community spirit that define the Chikhal Kalo festival.











Shree Devki Krishna Temple, Marcela, Goa

DAY 3 | THE SPIRIT OF CHIKHAL KALO MUD FESTIVAL

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Ekadasha TEERTHA YATRA

STRENGTHENING GOA'S SPIRITUAL TOURISM LANDSCAPE

Marking a significant milestone in promoting Goa's spiritual and cultural heritage, the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa launched the Ekadasha Teertha Yatra, a first-of-its-kind three-day pilgrimage circuit connecting 11 revered temples across the state. The yatra was flagged off by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant in the presence of Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, marking the beginning of a new chapter in Goa's spiritual tourism journey.

Ekadasha TEERTHA YATRA



Shree **SAPTAKOTESHWAR**
DEVASTHAN, NARVE



Shree **SAUNSTHAN**
DATTAWADI, SANKHALI



Shree **BRAHMADEV TEMPLE**
BRAMHA KARMALI, VALPOI



Shree **DEVKIKRISHNA RAVALNATH**
DEVASTHAN, PONDA



Shree **MAHAGANAPATI**
TEMPLE, KHANDOLA, PONDA



Shree **ANANT DEVASTHAN**
SAVOI-VEREM, PONDA



Shree **HARI MANDIR**
MARGAO



Shree **DAMODAR TEMPLE**
ZAMBAULIM, GOA



Shree **SHANTADURGA KUNKALIKARIN**
DEVASTHAN, FATORPA



Shree **PARSHURAM PANCHIGRAM**
DEVALAYA, PAINGIN



Shree **MAHADEV TEMPLE**
TAMBDI SURLA

The pilgrimage connects Shree Mahaganapati Temple (Khandola), Shree Devki Krishna Temple (Marcel), Shree Anant Temple (Savoi-Verem), Shree Mahadev Temple (Tambdi Surla), Shree Brahma Temple (Brahma Karmali), Shree Dattawadi Temple (Sanquelim), Shree Saptakoteshwar Temple (Narve), Shree Parshuram Temple (Paingin, Canacona), Shree Shantadurga Kunkalikarin Temple (Fatorpa), Shree Damodar Temple (Zambaulim) and Shree Hari Mandir (Margao), offering devotees and visitors an immersive experience of Goa's timeless traditions, sacred heritage and living culture beyond its beaches.

GOA TOURISM
STRENGTHENS EASTERN INDIA OUTREACH *at* TTF KOLKATA 2026

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa showcased the state's diverse tourism offerings at the Travel & Tourism Fair (TTF) Kolkata 2026, held from 10–12 July 2026 at the Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, Kolkata. Led by Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, Goa's participation highlighted the state's evolving tourism landscape under the 'Goa Beyond Beaches' vision, with a strong focus on culture, heritage, spirituality, wellness, adventure, MICE and destination weddings. The Goa delegation engaged with travel trade partners, tour operators, industry stakeholders and media, strengthening strategic collaborations and expanding Goa's presence in the Eastern Indian market.

During the three-day travel fair, Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte interacted with key tourism stakeholders and participated in the inauguration alongside Shri Shankar Ghosh, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism & Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal; Shri Satpal Maharaj, Hon'ble Tourism Minister, Government of Uttarakhand; Khun Siriporn Tantipanyathep, Consul General of Thailand; and other distinguished dignitaries. Goa Tourism's participation reaffirmed its commitment to positioning the state as a year-round destination while strengthening tourism partnerships and attracting visitors from Eastern India across leisure, MICE and wedding tourism segments.





RAINFOREST CHALLENGE INDIA 2026
SHOWCASES GOA'S ADVENTURE TOURISM

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa collaborated with Rainforest Challenge (RFC) India 2026, reinforcing the state's growing position as a premier destination for adventure tourism. Bringing together off-road enthusiasts from across the country, the event showcased Goa's rugged monsoon landscapes while promoting responsible and experience-driven travel.

Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte said, "The Rainforest Challenge India reflects Goa's growing stature as a destination for adventure tourism and outdoor experiences that celebrate our unique natural landscapes. As we continue to diversify our tourism offerings, events like RFC India play an important role in attracting enthusiasts while encouraging responsible engagement with nature. We are delighted to support this prestigious event and welcome participants and visitors to experience Goa beyond the conventional."

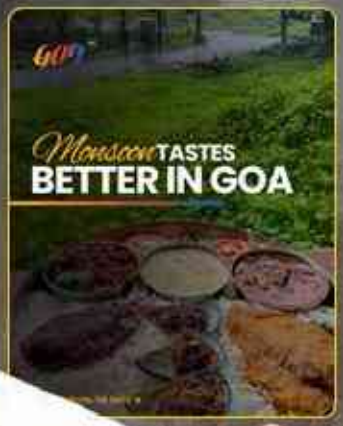


MONSOON IN GOA DISCOVERING THE STATE *Beyond* THE BEACHES

Through its Monsoon in Goa campaign, the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa continued to position the state as a vibrant year-round destination, inviting travellers to experience Goa's lush landscapes, rich cultural heritage and immersive monsoon experiences. From scenic nature trails, waterfalls and river experiences to heritage walks, spice plantations, local cuisine and seasonal festivals, the campaign showcased a different side of Goa that comes alive during the rains. By highlighting authentic experiences beyond the coastline, Goa Tourism reinforced its vision of promoting sustainable, experience-led travel while encouraging visitors to discover the state's unique charm during the monsoon season.







EMPOWERED COMMITTEE REVIEWS STRATEGIC ROADMAP *for* YEAR-ROUND TOURISM

The 29th Empowered Committee on Marketing & Public Relations under the Goa Tourism Board, chaired by Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, reviewed a series of strategic initiatives to further strengthen Goa's position as a year-round tourism destination. Key discussions focused on expanding destination marketing, strengthening global partnerships, promoting sports tourism, enhancing digital engagement, and preparations for World Tourism Day 2026. The committee also reviewed proposals for a strategic partnership with TUI Group and the hosting of marquee sporting events such as IRONMAN 70.3 Goa and Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT), reaffirming Goa Tourism's commitment to building a resilient, sustainable and globally competitive tourism ecosystem.





EMPOWERING RURAL TOURISM THROUGH *the* AIRBNB RURAL ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, in collaboration with Airbnb, celebrated the success of the Rural Tourism Accelerator Programme, recognising women entrepreneurs who have successfully established homestays and tourism-led enterprises across rural Goa. The initiative, graced by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant in the presence of Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, aims to strengthen rural livelihoods by promoting authentic Goan hospitality, creating sustainable employment opportunities, and encouraging community-led tourism. The programme reflects Goa Tourism's continued commitment to empowering local entrepreneurs while taking the benefits of tourism beyond the beaches and into the state's hinterland communities.

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GALLERY















