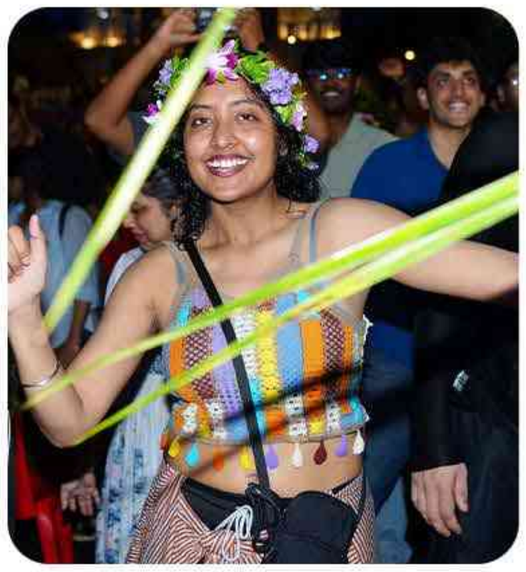
JUNE 2026

TOURISM NEWSLETTER

SÃO JOÃO 2026: SIOLIM SHOWCASES GOA'S LIVING HERITAGE TO THE WORLD



Thousands of residents and visitors gathered in Siolim on 24 June 2026 to celebrate São João 2026, one of Goa's most cherished monsoon festivals. Organised by Goa Tourism in collaboration with the São João Festival Committee, Siolim, the event celebrated Goa's rich cultural heritage and vibrant community traditions.







The festival was inaugurated by Shri Suresh Gopi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Tourism, Government of India, in the presence of Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Government of Goa; Shri Sadanand Shet Tanavade, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Smt. Delilah Lobo, MLA, Siolim; Shri Kedar Naik, Director, Department of Tourism, Government of Goa; tourism officials; and members of the São João Festival Committee. The celebrations featured the iconic Traditional Boat Festival on the Chapora River, colourful kopels, the traditional well-jumping ritual, folk performances, live music, and authentic Goan cuisine. The festival reflected Goa Tourism's continued commitment to preserving the state's living traditions while promoting culture-led, year-round tourism.



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REDEVELOPMENT OF MAPUSA RESIDENCY MARKS A NEW CHAPTER FOR TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IN NORTH GOA





A significant milestone in strengthening Goa's tourism infrastructure was marked on 18 June 2026 with the foundation stone laying ceremony for the redevelopment, operation, and maintenance of Mapusa Residency under the Private Investment Mode. The project was inaugurated by Dr. Pramod P. Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, in the presence of Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, Printing and Stationery.



The ceremony was attended by Shri Kedar J. Naik, Chairman, Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) and MLA, Saligao; Shri Joshua Peter De Souza, Deputy Speaker, Goa Legislative Assembly and MLA, Mapusa; Smt. Delilah Lobo, MLA, Siolim; Shri Glenn Ticlo, Former MLA; Shri Kuldeep Arolkar, Managing Director, GTDC; and other dignitaries. The redevelopment of Mapusa Residency will upgrade infrastructure and guest amenities, reinforcing Goa Tourism's commitment to modernising public tourism assets and enhancing visitor experiences through responsible investment.



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GOA TOURISM TO HONOUR LATA MANGESHKAR AND ASHA BHOSLE WITH A DEDICATED MEMORIAL



On 3 June 2026, Goa Tourism, under the leadership of Tourism Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, announced its vision to create a dedicated tourist attraction honouring Bharat Ratna Late Smt. Lata Mangeshkar and Padma Vibhushan Late Smt. Asha Bhosle. The proposed memorial seeks to celebrate the extraordinary artistic journey and enduring legacy of two of India's most celebrated musical icons while adding a distinctive cultural landmark to Goa's tourism landscape. Announcing the initiative, Shri Rohan A. Khaunte said the memorial reflects Goa Tourism's commitment to preserving and celebrating India's rich cultural heritage by creating meaningful attractions that honour distinguished personalities and their contributions to the nation. Envisioned as a space dedicated to music, culture, and inspiration, the memorial will offer visitors an opportunity to experience the timeless legacy of the legendary sisters while reinforcing Goa's position as a destination that values art, heritage, and cultural tourism.

GOA TOURISM REVIEWS BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT AT SHREE MAHAGANAPATI DEVASTHAN UNDER EKADASHA TEERTHA CIRCUIT

As part of the Ekadasha Teertha Circuit initiative, Goa Tourism reviewed the proposed beautification works at Shree Mahaganapati Devasthan, Khandola on 4 June 2026. The review focused on improving pilgrim infrastructure while preserving the temple's cultural, architectural, and spiritual significance.

The meeting was attended by Shri Kedar Naik, Director, Department of Tourism, Government of Goa; Shri Kuldeep Arolkar, Managing Director, Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC); tourism officials; and members of the Temple Committee. Discussions centred on implementation priorities and collaborative efforts to ensure the proposed development complements the temple's heritage, furthering Goa Tourism's vision of strengthening spiritual tourism through the Ekadasha Teertha Circuit.



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STRENGTHENING HOSPITALITY EXCELLENCE ACROSS GTDC RESIDENCIES THROUGH SERVICE AND INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES



The Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) convened a comprehensive review meeting with Residency Managers from across the state on 4 June 2026 to assess operational performance and reinforce hospitality standards across its properties. Chaired by Shri Kedar J. Naik, Chairman, GTDC, the meeting was held in the presence of Shri Kuldeep Arolkar, Managing Director, GTDC, along with senior officials. The review was attended by Shri Gavin Dias, General Manager, Marketing, Hotels and Transport; Shri Kapil Painguinkar, General Manager, Finance, Administration and Properties; Shri Sachin Gore, General Manager, Engineering; Shri Deepak Narvekar, Deputy General Manager, Marketing, Hotels and Public Relations; Shri Kundan Naik, Deputy General Manager, Finance and Transport; and other GTDC officials.

Discussions focused on service excellence, guest satisfaction, cleanliness, maintenance standards, pre-monsoon preparedness, and overall operational efficiency. Residency Managers also shared feedback, discussed operational challenges, and exchanged best practices to further enhance guest experiences. The review reaffirmed GTDC's commitment to maintaining high hospitality standards and ensuring its residencies continue to offer comfortable, wellmaintained, and guest-centric experiences across Goa.









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PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR SÃO JOÃO AS GOA PRESERVES ONE OF ITS MOST CHERISHED MONSOON TRADITIONS

In preparation for the São João Festival 2026, Goa Tourism held a review meeting in Siolim on 8 June 2026 to assess arrangements for the celebrations on 24 June. The meeting was chaired by Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, Minister for Tourism, Government of Goa, and attended by Smt. Delilah Lobo, MLA, Siolim; Shri Kedar Naik, Director, Department of Tourism, Government of Goa; tourism officials; and members of the festival committee. Discussions focused on ensuring a safe, seamless, and well-coordinated celebration while preserving the festival's authentic traditions and community spirit. Celebrated annually in honour of Saint John the Baptist, São João is renowned for its kopels, colourful boat parades, traditional music, and the iconic well-jumping tradition. Through its continued support, Goa Tourism remains committed to preserving Goa's living heritage and promoting its vibrant cultural festivals.



GOA CHARTS A NEW ROADMAP TO BECOME INDIA'S LEADING WELLNESS TOURISM DESTINATION





Goa Tourism held a high-level review meeting on 9 June 2026 to advance its vision of positioning the state as a leading wellness tourism destination. The meeting was chaired by Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, Minister for Tourism, Government of Goa, and attended by Shri Kedar Naik, Director, Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, along with leading stakeholders from the wellness industry. Discussions centred on the Wellness Tourism Roadmap, with a focus on promoting authentic Ayurvedic practices, strengthening infrastructure, and developing sustainable wellness experiences. The initiative reflects Goa Tourism's commitment to establishing Goa as a year-round destination for holistic well-being while diversifying the state's tourism offerings.

GOA AND SIKKIM EXPLORE COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN INDIA'S TOURISM LANDSCAPE

Strengthening inter-state tourism partnerships was the focus of a bilateral meeting between Goa and Sikkim held on 15 June 2026 during the India Today Conclave. Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, Minister for Tourism, Government of Goa, met Shri Tshering Thendup Bhutia, Tourism Minister of Sikkim, to discuss opportunities for collaboration aimed at enriching India's tourism landscape. The interaction centred on building stronger partnerships through knowledge sharing, destination promotion, and collaborative initiatives that encourage sustainable tourism growth. Discussions also explored ways to create integrated travel experiences by leveraging the unique strengths of both states.





While Goa is recognised for its beaches, heritage, wellness, regenerative tourism, and vibrant cultural experiences, Sikkim is celebrated for its Himalayan landscapes, eco-tourism, and Buddhist heritage. The meeting highlighted the potential of promoting multi-state travel that offers visitors diverse experiences across India. The engagement reflects Goa Tourism's continued efforts to foster strategic partnerships that encourage innovation, strengthen tourism networks, and position India as a destination offering rich cultural, natural, and experiential diversity.

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GOA WINS DUAL HONOURS AT INDIA TODAY TOURISM SURVEY & AWARDS 2026



Goa's diverse tourism offerings received national recognition at the India Today Tourism Survey & Awards 2026 on 16 June 2026, with Agonda Beach being named Best Beach Destination and Shree Mangueshi Temple, Priol receiving the award in the Spiritual Destination category. The awards were received by Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Government of Goa, in the presence of Shri Kedar Naik, Director, Department of Tourism, Government of Goa; Shri Kuldeep Arolkar, Managing Director, Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC); and other tourism officials. The recognitions reaffirm Goa's commitment to promoting tourism beyond its beaches through a diverse portfolio of natural, cultural, and spiritual experiences. Agonda Beach was recognised for its pristine coastline, tranquil ambience, and sustainable tourism practices, while Shree Mangueshi Temple was honoured for its historical significance, distinctive Goan temple architecture, and enduring spiritual heritage. The awards reflect Goa Tourism's continued efforts to promote year-round tourism by showcasing the State's rich heritage, culture, spirituality, and natural beauty.

MAYEM LAKE USHERS IN A NEW ERA OF NATURE, ADVENTURE AND HINTERLAND TOURISM IN GOA





Goa Tourism strengthened its Goa Beyond the Beaches initiative with the launch of kayaking and curated nature experiences at Mayem Lake on 17 June 2026, promoting eco-friendly tourism in North Goa's hinterland. The initiative was inaugurated by Shri Sadanand Shet Tanavade, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, in the presence of Shri Kedar J. Naik, Chairman, Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) and MLA, Saligao; Shri Premendra Shet, MLA, Mayem and Chairman, Goa State Horticulture Corporation; Shri Kuldeep Arolkar, Managing Director, GTDC; senior GTDC officials, representatives of Konkan Explorers, and local dignitaries. The newly introduced experiences include kayaking, guided nature trails, and outdoor activities, encouraging visitors to explore Mayem Lake's scenic landscape while supporting sustainable tourism and local community participation. The initiative reflects Goa Tourism's continued focus on developing diverse, year-round experiences beyond the state's coastline.

BUILDING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS: GOA AND OKINAWA EXPLORE A SHARED TOURISM VISION



Goa Tourism further strengthened its international outreach by hosting a delegation from Okinawa Prefecture, Japan, for a high-level exchange focused on regenerative tourism, sustainability, business collaboration, and destination development. The interaction, held at Taj Cidade de Goa – Heritage Hotel, brought together stakeholders from both island destinations to explore avenues for future cooperation. Representing the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC), Shri Deepak Narvekar, Deputy General Manager, joined Shri Anil Khaunte and members of the Vibrant Goa team led by Shri Rasik Naik in discussions on sustainable tourism practices, destination management, investment opportunities, cultural exchange, and Goa's world-class Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) infrastructure.









The delegation also participated in a networking lunch and guided heritage property tour, gaining insights into Goa's hospitality, heritage, and tourism ecosystem. The interaction reaffirmed the shared commitment of Goa and Okinawa to strengthening collaboration in tourism, business, culture, and sustainability while fostering meaningful international partnerships for responsible destination development.

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UNION TOURISM MINISTER SHRI SURESH GOPI WITNESSES GOA'S INTEGRATED VISION FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT



The visit of Shri Suresh Gopi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Tourism, Government of India, to Goa on 24 June 2026 reaffirmed the continued collaboration between the Central and State Governments in advancing tourism through sustainable infrastructure, heritage conservation, and community-led initiatives. Welcomed by Shri Sandip Jacques, IAS, Secretary, Tourism, Government of Goa, Shri Kedar Naik, Director, Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, Shri Kuldeep Arolkar, Managing Director, Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC), Shri Shawn Mendes, Officer on Special Duty to the Hon'ble Tourism Minister, and senior officials, the Hon'ble Minister reviewed the proposed Porvorim Town Square Project and visited Fort Aguada, where ongoing conservation efforts are preserving one of Goa's most significant heritage sites.

The visit concluded at the São João Festival in Siolim, organised by Goa Tourism in collaboration with the São João Festival Committee. Witnessing the traditional boat parade, vibrant folk performances, and the colourful display of kopels, the Hon'ble Minister appreciated the festival as a reflection of Goa's enduring cultural traditions and strong community participation. The visit highlighted the importance of integrating heritage conservation, public infrastructure, and cultural tourism in shaping Goa's future tourism landscape while preserving the State's unique identity.







GALLERY













