

## **Destination Maharashtra: State government plans to promote 25 spots as top tourist hubs**

The pristine Konkan strip, the beaches of Sindhudurg and the state capital will be among 25 places that the Maharashtra government plans to identify, develop and promote as top tourist destinations. The state tourism department's list will be a mix of beaches, mountains, valleys, heritage and cultural sites, and adventure tourism.

The plan will be designed to attract Indian and international tourists. The government would design travel plans with Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, or jointly with a private player. The government also plans to develop infrastructure in the 25 places on its list, to make it more attractive to tourists. Apart from the Konkan strip and the state's flagship tourism district Sindhudurg, Raigad Fort and Murud-Janjira may also make it to the list.

The new tourism policy could contribute to state's goal of becoming a trillion dollar economy by 2025.

An industry survey showed that one tourist can create jobs for 16 people. With CM Devendra Fadnavis' vision for a trillion dollar economy, tourism in Maharashtra has the potential to create 10% of that target.