



# Tourism Security Force

## Why in News?

The Maharashtra government has created a '**Tourism Security Force (Paryatan Mitra)**' to improve [tourism](#) and ensure **tourist safety**.

- The pilot launch will take place during the **Mahabaleshwar festival** from **1st - 4th May** in **Satara district**.

## Key Points

- **About the Tourism Police:**
  - The Tourism Department will **appoint tourism police on a contractual basis** to instill a sense of security among tourists visiting Maharashtra.
  - The **Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation** will bear the project's expenses in coordination with the **Maharashtra State Security Corporation** and the **Satara police department**.
- **Objectives:**
  - The State Tourism Minister stated that the **force will safeguard tourists** and act as a **knowledge guide**, providing valuable information on **Maharashtra's cultural heritage**, [historical landmarks](#), major tourist attractions, legal norms, and sustainable tourism practices.
    - Under this initiative, the government aims to **attract Rs 1 lakh crore in private investment** and **generate 18 lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities** in the tourism sector.
  - This initiative will **rejuvenate the tourism sector** and simultaneously generate **employment opportunities at the local level**.

## Mahabaleshwar

- **About:**
  - It is located in **Sahyadri Hills ([Western Ghats](#))**, at 4500 ft above sea level.
  - Origin of **five rivers: Krishna, Venna, Koyana, Savitri, and Gayatri** – at Panchganga Temple.
  - It is known for dense forests, deep valleys, and waterfalls; key viewpoints include **Arthur Seat, Echo Point, and Bombay Point**.
  - Famous for **Venna Lake**, built in **1842 by Chhatrapati Appasaheb Maharaj of Satara**.
  - It was the **summer capital of the Bombay Presidency during British rule**.
  - It is home to **Krishnabai Temple (13th century)** and **Mahabali (Shiva) Temple** in Old Mahabaleshwar.
  - Renowned for **strawberry farming** and local produce like **jams, honey, Kolhapuri items**.
- **The Mahabaleshwar Festival:**
  - It is a **three-day celebration** showcasing the region's natural beauty, cultural heritage, and local cuisine to promote tourism.
  - It features folk performances, a **Strawberry and Agrotourism Festival**, adventure

- sports, **heritage walks**, and sightseeing to nearby attractions like Kaas Plateau and Koynanagar.
- **Exhibitions of local handicrafts and a regional food fest** further highlight the area's traditional arts and community participation.

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