



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.

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/tourism-security-force>

