

FASHION AND YOU
Indulge

Upto 80% Off On 20 Sales Everyday!

 Rs.4,999

 Rs.1,799

[Buy Now](#)



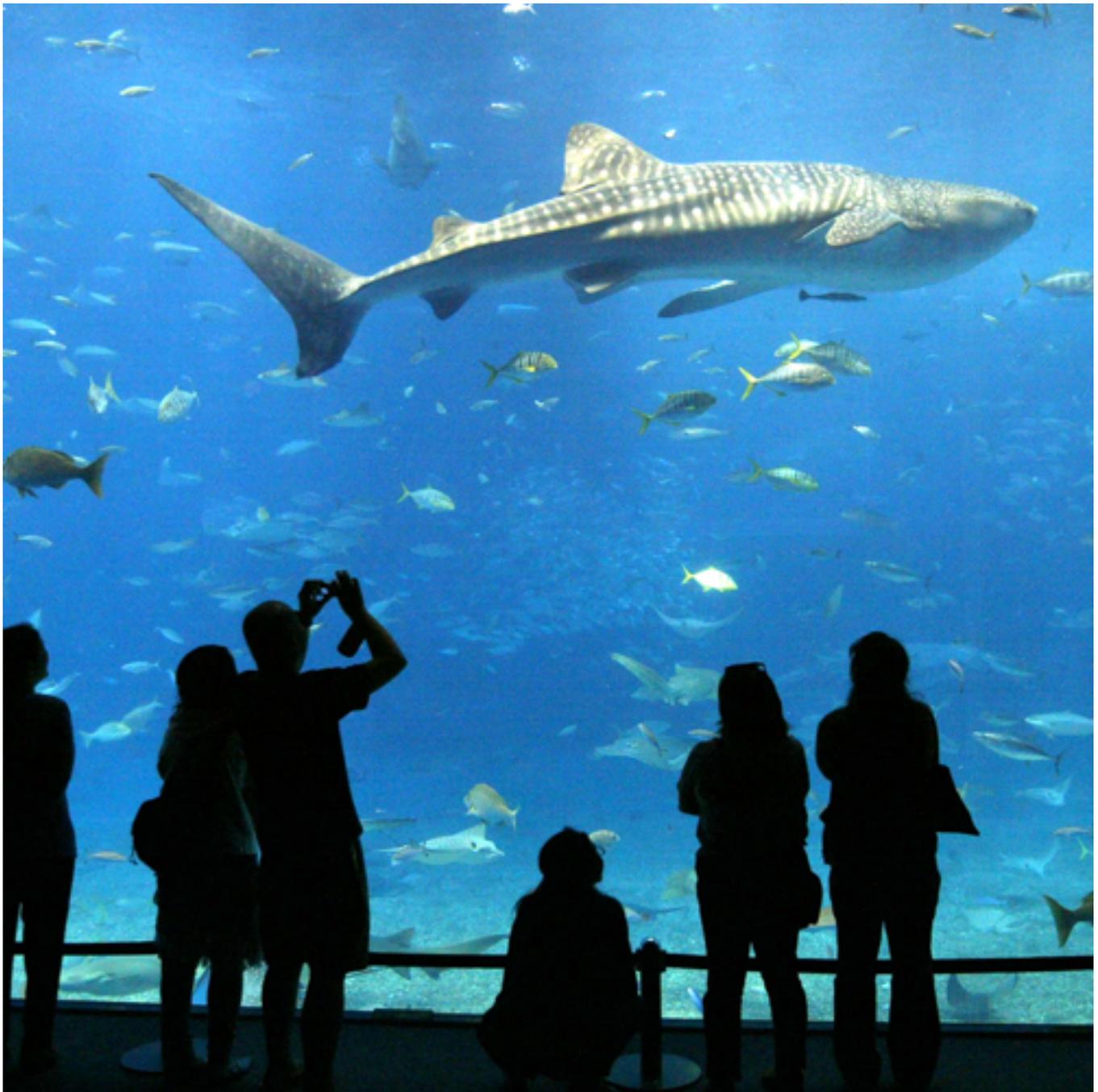
[Home \(/\)](#) » [News \(/news\)](/news) » [India \(/india\)](/india)

Centre ties up with UNDP to hold whale shark workshop

Monday, 25 May 2015 - 6:39am IST | Agency: dna | From the print edition

[Tanea Bandyopadhyay \(/authors/tanea-bandyopadhyay\)](/authors/tanea-bandyopadhyay)

Follow @TaneaB03



Getty Images

The **Government of India (/topic/government-of-india)** – United Nation's Development Program Global Environment Facility (Gol UNDP GEF) project will be organising a whale shark workshop on May 30. The workshop will focus on mainstreaming marine and coastal biodiversity in Sindhudurg.

The Whale Shark is the biggest fish in the world and is known as the 'gentle giant of the waters' due to its docile nature.

N Vasudevan, chief conservator of forests, mangrove cell, Mumbai, said: "We realised that there needed to be some policy created within the state to better protect these fish. Unlike Gujarat, where there were incidents of targeted hunting of the whale shark, in Maharashtra, every catch has been incidental."



A report by the Wildlife Trust of India states that Maharashtra has the second highest number of [Whale Sharks \(/topic/whale-sharks\)](/topic/whale-sharks) in India. However, it is hunted in many parts of Asia for its fins, which are considered a delicacy in China.

It was included in the Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 on May 2001, which is the highest level of protection given to animals. At the international level, it is included in Appendix II of the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Vasudevan added: "Unfortunately, mostly terrestrial animals of the Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, are considered when making awareness campaigns like those about the tiger. However, in the case of marine creatures, the circumstance is trickier since the awareness has to be created among fisher folk who depend on the sea for their livelihood, and all complications of the marine environment are not apparent."

The workshop will have officials from various government and non-government agencies like Vasudevan and Mr Sarjan Bhagat, principal chief conservator of forests, chief wildlife warden; Dr SK Khanduri, inspector general of forests (wildlife); Dr Venkatraman, director, zoological survey of India.