

Press Release

On a wellness break in Kerala, Jonty Rhodes lauds beauty and hospitality of state

- Tourism Minister Mohamed Riyas calls Rhodes, appreciates him playing with local youth

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct. 04: On a wellness and rejuvenation break in Kerala, former South African cricketer Jonty Rhodes told state Tourism Minister Shri PA Mohamed Riyas that he was impressed by the scenic charm and hospitality of God's Own Country.

In a free-wheeling online chat, Shri Riyas had enquired about his stay in Kerala and suggested Rhodes to explore more parts of the state next time. The Minister said he was a follower of Rhodes during his playing career.

Expressing his gratitude, Rhodes said he was around for a 10-day wellness and rejuvenation break in Alappuzha and was impressed by the captivating beauty of place.

Noting that he is an ardent fan of Rhodes, Shri Riyas said it was a delightful experience to watch a video of Rhodes playing cricket with local youths on Arthunkal Beach in Alappuzha, the other day.

A swift fielder with amazing temperament in his heydays, a video of Rhodes playing cricket with local youngsters has gone viral.

The Minister told Rhodes that Kerala was very proud to host him and welcomed him again to the state.

Rhodes, who redefined fielding with his astounding flexibility and agility on cricket ground, stayed with his family on a houseboat in Marari near Alappuzha.

During his visit to Fort Kochi, Rhodes enjoyed a heritage walk and expressed his amazement at the similarities between Fort Kochi and South African city Cape Town, where the influence of Portuguese, Dutch and British colonialism is palpable.

Shri Subair Kutty PI, Joint Director, Kerala Tourism and Shri Sreekumar G, Deputy Director, who were with Rhodes during the online chat, presented him with a memento at Fort Kochi.

Regarded as one of the amazing fielders of all-time, the former South African middle order batter is a frequent traveler to India.

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