



**Department of Tourism**

Park View Thiruvananthapuram 695 033

Kerala India Fax: +91-471-2322279

Tel: +91-471-2326579 2321132

Email: [info@keralatourism.org](mailto:info@keralatourism.org)

[marketing@keralatourism.org](mailto:marketing@keralatourism.org)

[www.keralatourism.org](http://www.keralatourism.org)

**Press Release**

**State capital to greet X'mas, New Year with festival of flowers and lights**

**Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 05:** Kerala's eagerly-awaited annual flower festival "Vasantholsavam" will be held between the last week of December and the first week of the New Year in the state capital, along with the Light Festival that will illuminate the city's streets and heritage structures.

This edition of the festival of flowers and lights will be organized on a grander scale so as to make it a memorable and joyful occasion for both tourists and city residents, Tourism Minister Shri P A Mohamed Riyas said at meeting convened here to form the reception committee for the event here today.

Since the festival coincides with the in-bound tourism season it should be planned and organized in a meticulous fashion to elevate the charm and ambience of the city, the Minister said.

The festival is organized by the Tourism Department and the District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC).

An organizing committee has been formed with General Education and Labour Minister Shri V Sivankutty and Food and Civil Supplies Minister Shri G R Anil as Chief Patrons. The MPs and MLAs from the district and the District Panchayat President are the patrons.

Tourism Minister Shri P A Mohamed Riyas will be the Chairman and Shri Sivankutty, the working chairman. Tourism Secretary Shri K Biju will be the general convener and the District Collector and Tourism Director, the conveners. The DTPC secretary is the coordinator. Various sub-committee were also formed.

Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Mayor Smt Arya Rajendran said the civic body would extend total support to make the festival a big success.

Tourism Director Smt Sikha Surendran and Additional Secretary Shri Jagadees D also attended the meeting.

The Vasantholsavam will be organized in coordination with Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute, Palode, which had curated the last edition also.



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Collaboration of nurseries in the city and suburbs will be ensured. There will various competitions also as part of the festival.

**ENDS**