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**Press Release**

## **Tourism Minister launches work on Travancore Heritage Project**

- **Heritage structures in state capital to be illuminated in first phase**



**Thiruvananthapuram, Feb. 16:** In a major tourism initiative, Kerala today launched work on the Rs 100-crore Travancore Heritage Project to conserve and showcase the cultural richness and tangible legacy of the erstwhile Travancore kingdom and make the visit to the state capital and its surroundings a more riveting experience.

Inaugurating the work, State Tourism Minister Shri Kadakampally Surendran said Kerala Tourism is making a major stride by presenting before the world the heritage and legacy of



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Travancore. The project is conceived in such a way that it will provide a complete experience to the visitors, he said.

The tourism sector in Kerala has been passing through its severest crisis for the last three years. However, the Government made its best efforts to turn adversities into opportunities. In 2018-19 the state recorded its highest revenue from tourism. The newly launched projects are expected to make the tourism sector more productive and attractive, Shri Surendran added.

Offering felicitations on the occasion, Minister for Ports, Archives and Archaeology, Shri Ramachandran Kadannappally, said the project would make a visit to the state capital more attractive. He expressed his appreciation for bringing the Archaeology and Museum Department also within the ambit of the project.

The launch of the project is the result of an effort to firmly mark the rich heritage of Travancore on the world tourism map, said Smt Rani George IAS, Principal Secretary, Tourism. The realisation of the project would enable the visitors to delve into the history and culture of the erstwhile Travancore princely state, she said.

Tourism Director Shri P Bala Kiran IAS said that a slew of projects with a total outlay of Rs 450 crore are being implemented in Thiruvananthapuram district alone. The Travancore Heritage Project is the most prominent among them, he added.

The Travancore Heritage Project (THP) seeks to preserve old-world looks of the vintage structures. The first phase involves illuminating 30 heritage structures of the city to give them a greater visual appeal in the evenings. In the next stage, another 20 structures will be illuminated, and each heritage building would be maintained like a museum, he said.

Shri Krishna Teja IAS, MD, KTDC and Shri S Abu, Director, Dept of Museums & Zoos, Govt of Kerala were also present at the occasion.

Travancore Heritage Project overall, covers heritage structures from Padmanabhapuram Palace, now in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu, to the Parthasarathy temple on the banks of the Pampa in Aranmula of Pathanamthitta district.

**ENDS**