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PRESS RELEASE

Tourism minister inaugurates Onam trade fair and exhibition

Thiruvananthapuram, Aug. 21: Minister for Tourism and Culture Shri P C Vishnunadh today inaugurated the Onam trade fair and exhibition at Kanakakkunnu Palace grounds here, as part of the Onam Tourism Week celebrations organised by the state Tourism Department.

Speaking at the function, Shri Vishnunadh said the celebrations from August 24 would feature a wide range of cultural programmes at around 35 venues spread across the district, including Kanakakkunnu and the Central Stadium.

Vishnunadh said this edition of the Onam Tourism Week celebrations in the state capital will make a mark in terms of scale and public participation compared to the previous years.

As part of the celebrations, Nishagandhi will host performances of Kerala's traditional ritual art forms, including Padayani, Theyyam and Thira, from 6pm to 7pm.

"Wherever Malayalis are in the world, they will celebrate Onam. Following the recent floods in Pathanamthitta, people were initially hesitant to celebrate Onam. Later, people's representatives contacted us and said that the people there wanted to celebrate Onam. They did not want to postpone it. We need to celebrate in order to forget our sufferings," he said.

Smt. Sreedhanya Suresh, Additional Director (General), Department of Tourism, Kerala, welcomed the gathering.

Ward Councillor Shri K.R. Cleetus presided over the function, while former MLA and Trade Fair Committee Vice-Chairman M.A. Vaheed proposed a vote of thanks.

Ends