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**Press Release**

## **Season-2 of Beypore International Water Fest gets under way**

### **2022 marked all-time record in domestic tourist footfall in Kerala: Minister Riyas**

**Kozhikode, Dec 24:** The second edition of the five-day Beypore International Water Fest got under way on an exciting note this evening in the ancient port town of Beypore, combining Kerala's rich maritime and cultural traditions with a world-class water sport event on the eve of Christmas and New Year.

Tourism Minister Shri P A Mohamed Riyas, who inaugurated the event, said tourism fests on the lines of Beypore Water Fest will be conducted in all districts.

Noting that in 2022 Kerala registered the highest footfall of domestic visitors, the Minister said tourism sector recorded a 120 percent growth. The state hosted around 1,30,80,000 tourists till September this year and going by this pace this figure would be surpassed next year, Shri Riyas said.

Organized by Kerala Tourism in association with District Administration and District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC), the event is part of the government's efforts to tap the tourism potential of the ancient port town on the Malabar coast.

Deputy Leader of Opposition in Kerala Assembly and former minister, Shri P K Kunhalikutty, who was the guest of honour, lauded the coordination that went on to make the Beypore Water Fest a big success.

Shri Kunhalikutty said tourism sector, which bolsters Kerala's economy, has to be encouraged by all as it has a vital role in the future of the state.

In his address as chief guest, actor Suraj Venjaramoodu said the huge public participation in Beypore Water Fest reminds him of Thrissur Pooram.

Kozhikode Corporation Mayor Dr Beena Philip presided over the function.

Billed as India's biggest water festival, Beypore Water Fest creates a festive milieu on Marina Beach at Beypore and on the banks of Chaliyar river with a combination of water-based competitions, international kite fest, cultural programmes, food festival and flea



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market offering a rare holiday experience to both local people and visitors, giving a fillip to tourism in the region.

District Collector Dr N Tej Lohit Reddy, IAS, welcomed the gathering. Additional Director, Tourism, Shri Prem Krishnan proposed a vote of thanks.

Smt Bushra Rafeeq; Chairperson, Municipality, Ramanattukara; Feroke Municipality Chairman Shri N C Razak; CPI (M) Kozhikode District Secretary Shri P Mohanan Master; BJP District President Shri Sajeevan; CPI District Secretary Shri K K Balan Master; and IUML District President Shri Ummer Pandikashala, were also present.

A music fusion programme by playback singer Sithara Krishnakumar was also held.

The inaugural edition of Beypore Water Fest last year marked Kerala prominently on the map of adventure and water sports competitions, resulting in greater participation this time round.

Tourism carnival, recreational water sports, visit to Navy ship INS Kalpeni, surfing demo and paramotoring are some of the attractions of the event.

Naval band concert, fusion music by Sivamani and team, music band by playback singer Vidhu Prathap and team will also be held.

Apart from adventure water competitions like seat open top kayaking, white water kayaking and bamboo rafting, there will be competitions for local community in country boat sailing, casting net and angling. Besides, competitions will be held in various categories of sailing regatta.

The mega food festival, planned in collaboration with various institutions and associations focusing on the traditional cuisine and delicacies of Kozhikode, will be a sumptuous treat for gourmets and foodies.

Other key features of the event include adventure activities by Coast Guard, Military and Naval contingents, kite fest, boat parade and cultural programmes on all five days.

**Ends**