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Press Release

District's first floating bridge set to welcome tourists

- **Tourism Minister to inaugurate floating bridge at Papanasam Beach on Dec. 25**

Varkala, Dec. 24: As part of the state government's ambitious project of setting up floating bridges in coastal districts, the first floating bridge in Thiruvananthapuram district will be opened at Papanasam Beach here tomorrow (December 25).

Tourism Minister Shri PA Mohamed Riyas will inaugurate the floating bridge and water sports activities on the beach at 10 am. Shri V Joy, MLA, will preside over the function.

This is the seventh floating bridge to come up in the state under the initiative of the Department of Tourism.

The floating bridge at Varkala, which is expected to give a fillip to tourism in the area, has been set up by the Department of Tourism in association with the District Tourism Promotion Council, Kerala Adventure Tourism Promotion Society and the Municipality of Varkala.

Shri KM Laji, Municipal Chairman, Varkala; Smt Kumari Sudarshini, Vice Chairperson; Shri C Ajayakumar, Councillor and Chairman of Education Standing Committee; Shri V Nithin Nair, Chairman, Health Affairs Standing Committee; Shri Rajeev GL, Deputy Director, Tourism; Shri Binu Kuriakose, CEO, KATPS, and Shri Shyam Krishnan, Secretary, DTPC will also attend the opening ceremony.

The bridge has a 100-meter length and a three-meter width with pillars on both sides. At the end of the bridge, there is a platform 11-metre in length and seven-metre width, enabling visitors to enjoy the scenery far off the sea.

Constructed with 1,400 high-density floating polyethylene blocks, the floating bridge is equipped with safety measures, including safety boats, life jackets and lifeguards.

Around 100 visitors can enter the floating bridge at a time and entry will be from 11 am to 5 pm.

Ends