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PRESS RELEASE

Global Surfing Fest to get underway on March 29

- **Actor and surfing athlete Sudev Nair to open event at Varkala**

Thiruvananthapuram, March 27: Marking Kerala as a vibrant adventure tourism spot, a three-day International Surfing Festival, organised by the Department of Tourism, will get underway on the famous Varkala Edava Beach on March 29.

Actor and surfing athlete Sudev Nair will inaugurate the event at 7 am and Kerala Tourism Additional Director (General) Shri Vishnu Raj will preside over the function. This is the first International Surfing Festival to be hosted in the country in 2024.

As many as 100 domestic and foreign contestants will be part of the event which will conclude on March 31.

The event is organised in association with International Surfing Association, Kerala Adventure Tourism Promotion Society (KATPS), DTPC and Surfing Federation of India.

The event also aims to make Kerala as a premier surfing destination of the country, besides promoting Varkala's high potential as a global water sports hub. It will provide an opportunity for water sports enthusiasts to get a first-hand experience and practise surfing.

International Surfing Association (ISA) representative Rory Symes from Australia is the Head Judge of the competitions.

Kerala Tourism Secretary Shri Biju K will give away the prizes to the winners at the valedictory function where Kerala Tourism Additional Director (General) Shri Vishnu Raj; Kerala Tourism Director Shri PB Nooh will also be present.

The winning team in the International Cup category will get Rs 1 lakh as prize money while the runners-up will be awarded Rs 50,000. In the Groms Category, the winner will get Rs 15,000 while the winner in the Open Category will get Rs 20,000.

The concluding session will also have the presence of Tourism Joint Director, Thiruvananthapuram Shri Abhilash T G; Tourism Deputy Director Shri Rajeev T L; KATPS CEO Shri Binu Kuriakose; DTPC Secretary Shri Shyam Krishnan and office bearers of Surfing Federation of India.

Ends