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Press Release

A return to glory for Kanakakunnu palace

Thiruvananthapuram, May 13: Kerala Tourism Minister Shri A P Anil Kumar inaugurated a Rs 3.05-crore renovation and beautification project of the century-old Kanakakunnu Palace, an erstwhile durbar and banquet hall of the Travancore royal family and one of the key landmarks of the capital city.

“The project is aimed at recapturing the glory, legacy and beauty of the palace,” said the minister. “The work will be eco-friendly and will not tamper with the monument’s traditional architectural styles”.

The Nishagandhi auditorium, in the Kanakakunnu palace premises, which hosts a variety of cultural programmes, including movie screenings, will also be renovated simultaneously. The renovation work is being entrusted to the Kerala Land Development Corporation (KLDC).

The project comprises renovating the Kanakakunnu garden, setting up lights, constructing lawns to showcase its natural beauty, planting trees, widening the parking area, constructing the age-old stone steps (*kalpadavukkal*) from the entrance to the palace, royal gates and putting up new direction boards. The project also includes widening of walkway around the palace for the public.

Shri Anil Kumar also said that the plans to connect Kanakakunnu palace with the neighbouring museum compound is under consideration.

Shri K Muraleedharan MLA, who presided over the inaugural function, put forward a proposal, as phase two of the project, to protect the open-air Suryakanthi auditorium from adverse climates.

“This project is part of the renovation programmes of tourism destinations. It will also be an added attraction to the Kerala Tourism,” said Kerala Tourism Director, Shri P I Sheikh Pareeth.

Kerala Tourism Secretary, Shri G Kamala Vardhana Rao handed over the master plan of the project to Shri Anil Kumar.

The KLDC has assured that the renovation work will be completed by the first week of August and will be open to the public as an Onam bonus.

Also present at the function were KLDC Managing Director Dr PG Raveendranath, KLDC Chairman Shri Benny Kakkad, Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Councilor, Smt Leelama Issac and Kerala Tourism Planning Officer Dr A Udayakumar