Beaches and parks in State to open from today

Tourism Department has taken steps to ensure adherence to guidelines to revive the sector hit by COVID-19.

Back in business: A street vendor on the Kochi beach clearing his shop ahead of the reopening of the beach for tourists on Sunday. 

P. Bala Kiran said on Saturday: As part of safety parameters for beaches, which do not have controlled access, directives have been issued to ensure that officials are deployed at entry points, walkways, and open areas, equipped with thermal scanners, sanitizers, and handwash facilities. Boards featuring dos and don'ts are being put up and walkways, handrails, and shelters will be sprayed with sanitizers at regular intervals. Tourism police will be posted, if necessary, to help Kudamoolur volunteers and police. A register will be kept at the entry for entering details of visitors.

For parks and museums, online ticket/SMS booking will be explored to the extent possible at gated entries. Vehicles will be allowed at parking areas for up to maximum one hour.

A register will be kept at all entry points for entering visitor’s name, native place, contact number, and date and time of the visit.

“It is significant that we are reopening our beaches, including destinations such as Kovalam,” Tourism Minister Kallam Anji Reddy said. “The response to destinations in Kochi that reopened operations from October 10 has been encouraging, with footfall gradually increasing,” Tourism Secretary Rani George said.

SOPs for tourists:

As per the SOP issued by the government, visitors will have to wear masks, use soap and sanitizers and follow physical distancing at destinations.

Tourists coming for visits of less than seven days are exempted from quarantine but should register on the COVID kripa portal.

If they plan to extend their stay for more than seven days, they have to undergo a test at their cost on the seventh day at CMVN state government approved laboratories. They are advised to avoid travel if they are symptomatic.