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Cell to monitor progress of tourism projects

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Thiruvananthapuram:
With poll announcement expected in the first week of March 2021, the government is in a hurry to showcase its achievements before the public. Now, tourism department has appointed 17 project engineers for monitoring its projects worth Rs 314 crore.

The project monitoring cell will have one project engineer in each district in addition to two project engineers and one technical assistant at tourism headquarters. The expenses for their appointment are estimated at Rs 1.41 crore and it includes remuneration, vehicle expenses, procuring technical devices etc.

The cell is being constituted for carrying out day-to-day updation of project monitoring system, the chief minister’s office portal, progress verification of state and central projects.

The department has schemes worth Rs 320.14 crore in the current financial year. While tourism directorate implements projects worth Rs 307.11 crore, the rest of the plan allocation is shared between KTDC (Rs 9 cr), Bekal Resorts Development Corporation (Rs 2.5 cr) and KTL (Rs 153 cr). Till Aug 31, the expenditure by the department stood at Rs 122.60 crore (38.6% of plan allocation), which is much better than the departmental average (22.71% for 83 departments).

In addition to the 12 mega projects that are directly monitored by the CM with Feb 28, 2021 as the completion deadline, the government has asked all departments to complete as many projects as possible.

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