

Kerala Tourism

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COVID -19 Kerala tourism takes Rs 25k cr hit

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COVID-19: Kerala tourism takes Rs 25k cr hit

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The money spinning tourism business in Kerala has taken a severe beating on account of the pandemic and as per a State Minister, the loss suffered is around Rs 25,000 crore.

State Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran on Tuesday said the tourism industry has suffered one of its worst ever disaster. "The loss that has been suffered is Rs 25,000 crore and it has hit thousands of people working in the industry very badly. The state government has now announced a package of Rs 455 crore for the industry," said Surendran.

"This package consists of new infusion of funds up to a maximum of Rs 25 lakh to tourism entrepreneurs and 50 per cent of the interest would be borne by the state government. Likewise workers in the industry will get a loan of Rs 30,000 from the Kerala Bank which will come at an interest rate of three per cent and repayment starts only after 6 months," he added.

It was a record 1.96 crore tourists who arrived (domestic and foreign) in Kerala in the 2019 calendar year. It registered a 17.2 per cent growth as compared to the 2018 calendar year.

The total earnings from tourism stood at Rs 45,010.69 cr, a 24.14 per cent growth.

