



Department of Tourism

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Press Release

Gavi-Vagamon to Become First Mega Tourism Circuit in India

Swadesh Darshan Empowered Committee of Union Tourism Ministry Clears Rs 95 crore project

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 6: One of the first Mega Tourism Circuits in the country will be developed in Kerala with the state tourism department's proposal for creating world class infrastructure in the Pathanamthitta-Gavi-Vagamon-Thekkady region getting the Centre's approval, Kerala Tourism Minister Shri A P Anilkumar informed here today.

The 150-km long circuit will have a host of new facilities such as trekking, archery and rock climbing. It will be among the first such tourism projects to be built under the new Swadesh Darshan scheme of the Union Tourism Ministry. Other projects under the scheme include the Buddhist and Himalayan circuits.

The Pathanamthitta-Gavi-Vagamon-Thekkady project will have an expenditure of Rs 95 crore, funded by the Union Tourism Ministry. The Swadesh Darshan projects are meant for theme-based development of destinations. The Pathanamthitta-Gavi-Vagamon-Thekkady project will be based on theme of eco-tourism.

"We are happy to announce that the empowered committee has cleared our proposal to develop a Mega Tourism Circuit in the Pathanamthitta-Gavi-Vagamon-Thekkady region focussed on eco-friendly tourism," said Shri A P Anilkumar.

"The development of a Mega Tourism Circuit will not only create tourism infrastructure with global standards, but also lead to creation of jobs and livelihoods for the people of our state and growth of our local communities," the Minister said.

"We are confident that the Pathanamthitta-Gavi-Vagamon-Thekkady Mega Tourism Circuit will become a model of eco-friendly tourism in the world," Shri Anilkumar said.

"As a picturesque region, the new circuit will certainly help in further increasing the number of domestic and international tourist arrivals in our state," he added.

The state tourism department had submitted a proposal for the circuit estimated at Rs 200 crore. Under the sanctioned project, Rs 30 crore will be spent for Pathanamthitta and Gavi and Rs 65 crore for Vagamon and Thekkady.

Kerala Tourism Director Shri P I Sheik Pareeth said the project would extend from Angamoozhy in Pathanamthitta to Vagamon covering about 150 km. "The main components of the project include destination development, tourist facilities and security for visitors," Shri Pareeth said.

Under the project, destination development would be undertaken in Angamoozhy, Moozhiyar, Kochupampa, Kaki and Gavi in the Pathanamthitta-Gavi area, including tourist facility centres consisting of cafeteria, and rest and activity areas. Facilities for trekking at view point, boating surveillance camera, security arrangements, eco-friendly accommodation and adventure sports activities will also be



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developed in the area.

In Vagamon-Thekkady area, there will be exclusive development of adventure tourism activities like buggy walks, shooting arena, archery arena, pain ball arena, Burma bridge, trampoline walk, rock climbing, multiline walk and earthquake walk. Cycle tracks and amphitheatre will also be developed in the area. Drinking water and lighting arrangements will be built in the area along with curio shops. A 6-km nature trail along the pain valley forest will be another attraction of the development project besides common signage, solid waste management and walk ways throughout the project. A new cultural centre will also come up in Kadammanitta while eco-lodging facilities are also planned in Peerumedu.

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