

## THE HINDU

Kerala tourism industry joins drive against plastics

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## 225 properties to avoid 19 types of plastic materials

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In tune with the ban on single-use plastics coming into effect in Kerala on Wednesday, 225 hotels, resorts and homestays with a total of 3,000 rooms have been made free of 19 types of plastic materials.

Plastic carry bags, trays, disposable glasses, bottles, straw, plates, cups, cooling film, bowls, flask, sheets for food parcelling, spoon, juice packet, PVC flex materials and plastic containers for parcelling are among the 19 materials that had been avoided in these units.

At Kumarakom, all the hotels, resorts and homestays

and 20 houseboats have joined the bandwagon.

The units that have become part of the mission include 40 units from Kottayam, 15 from Ernakulam, 20 from Kasaragod, 32 from Idukki, 38 from Wayanad, 32 from Kozhikode, 15 from Alappuzha, five from Thrissur, 10 from Kollam, 12 from Thiruvananthapuram and six from Malappuram.

In all, 30 resorts, 35 homestays, 30 houseboats and 130 hotels have joined the mission to avoid single-use plastics.

These units have also entered into a MoU with the Responsible Tourism Mission that is spearheading the

drive to avoid plastics in tourism destinations.

### Green certification

The move is also part of the ambitious effort to secure green certification for nine key tourist destinations in the State by 2021.

Kerala Tourism was also hopeful of declaring Kumarakom as the first plastic-free tourist destination in the State in January 2020 itself, Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran said.

As an alternative, the RT Mission is giving 70,000 cloth bags to tourism entrepreneurs. The mission has tied up with the units to promote eco-friendly materials.