

# Labour movement museum to be opened in Alappuzha

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**Alappuzha:** A museum telling the fascinating story of the workers' struggles from across the world will soon open in Alappuzha, the cradle of the labour movement in the state.

The labour movement museum, the first of its kind in the country, is being developed as part of the Alappuzha heritage tourism project and will be set up alongside the port and coir museums.

On display will be a huge repository of documents, pictures and other exhibits chronicling the growth of labour movements across the world as well as in the state.

The exhibits at the port and coir museums reflect the town's rich maritime heritage and the setting up of the labour museum is part of the tourism department's plan to draw visitors to the region showcasing its social and cultural history. The museum is being set up at the New Model Cooperative Society building, previously run by the Bombay Company.

The Kerala State Coir Corporation's building will be converted into the museum of coir history while the port museum will come up at the old port office and the



The museum, the first of its kind in the country, is being developed as part of the Alappuzha heritage tourism project. (Above) A heritage building under renovation as part of the project

adjacent godowns.

Tourism minister Kadakampally Surendran said besides its unsurpassed natural beauty, Alappuzha has a rich commercial and maritime heritage dating back to the ancient times and connected to distant lands.

"The Alappuzha heritage tourism project is conceived to bring this legacy before the tourists, in which these museums are important components. They will also serve scholars specializing in the commercial and labour-related topics," he said.

The setting up of two coir museums—the yarn museum and the living coir museum—is in its final stages, under a project that strings together the coir industry, port and heritage of Alappuzha,

tourism principal secretary Rani George said. "Together with the initiation of the Travancore, the Thalassery and the Muziris heritage projects, Kerala is well on its way to showcasing its rich heritage and history to the visitors of this beautiful land, making it a complete experience," she added.

"The city is also getting its past glory restored through the renovation of centuries-old buildings situated west of the Circular Canal and the Commercial Canal," tourism director P Balakiran said.

The project is being executed under the Muziris heritage project. The museums will be inaugurated once restoration of heritage structures are completed.