

NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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DTPC and district administration have revived some major projects in rural areas

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Though Covid cases are expected to peak in November as per the projections made by experts, possibly stealing the thunder from the state's tourism season which runs from October to March, various stakeholders of the travel industry are pretty hopeful of regaining lost ground as soon as the pandemic beats a retreat.

Closer home in Ernakulam, the village and regional tourism sector is hopeful of making a major comeback riding piggyback on upcoming projects. Other than the popular tourist destinations, the District Tourism Promotion Council and the district administration have revived some major projects in rural areas of Ernakulam, which are expected to give a major fillip to the economy of those villages.

PROJECTS THAT ARE EXPECTED TO HELP RESTORE THE SECTOR TO ITS PRE-PANDEMIC DAYS

Nedumbara Chira Tourism project

Nedumbara Chira is situated 17 km from Perumbavoor town on the Vallam-Kodanadu stretch. A children's park, pedal boat huts and fish farm are the major attractions here. Under the project, the area will be developed into a major tourism destination by rejuvenating the pond and protecting it. Administrative sanction for the project was given in February 2019 and the restoration work undertaken at cost of ₹50 crore has been completed.

Piravom River Valley

The Kalladumbil River valley in Piravom municipality will see major development work at an estimated cost of ₹1.50 crore. The work on boat jetty, parking area, toilet complex and walkway has already been completed.

Cruise tourism

The District Tourism Promotion Council and the tourism department have undertaken a ₹4.85 crore project for developing a Tourism Facilitation Centre and Performing Arts Theatre to help cruise tourism.



Valanthakad mangrove island

The Valanthakad island under Maradu municipality also has a huge potential for tourism development. In-principle nod for ₹90 lakh development work had been accorded in August 2019 to carry out the work as a Responsible Tourism project. As per the plan, the footpath, floating facilitation centre, boat jetty and signage will be installed by this year-end.

Ashram Kadavu, Sivarathri Kadavu

A walkway near the Kalady Pilgrim Centre for Balidarpan and a mandapam near the Periyar built at an estimated cost of ₹90 lakh was launched in January 2020.