Rural destinations spruced up to lure visitors

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

Express News Service

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 begins to recede.

Closer home in Ernakulam, the village and regional tourism sector is hoping for 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

Nendumbara Chira Tourism project

Nendumbara Chira is situated 17 km from Perumbavoor town on the Vallam-Kodarada stretch. A children’s park, pedal boat hire, and fish farm are the major attractions here. Under the project, the village will be developed into a major tourism destination by rejuvenating the pond and protecting it. Administrative sanction for the project was given in February 2023 and the restoration work undertaken at a cost of ₹50 crore has been completed.

Piravom River Valley

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

Valanthakadu Mangrove Island

The Valanthakadu 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 jetties, and signage will be installed by this year-end.

Cruise Tourism

The District Tourism Promotion Council and the tourism department have undertaken a ₹4.85-crore project for developing a tourist facilitation centre and performing arts theatre to help cruise tourism.

Ashram Kadavu, Shivaratri Kadavu

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