

TIMES OF INDIA

Special package soon for revival of tourism

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Relief For Guides & Entrepreneurs Proposed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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Thiruvananthapuram: Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran said the state government would soon announce a special package for the revival of the tourism industry that has been rocked by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The minister made the announcement after evaluating the development works carried out at the Veli tourism village here on Saturday.

“As part of the special scheme, 328 accredited tourist guides in the state would be given ₹10,000 as one-time help. Based on the number of rooms, houseboats would be given an annual maintenance grant ranging from ₹80,000 to ₹1,20,000.

“To give a breather to the homestay owners, they would be allowed to convert the building tax of homestays into a domestic tariff. This would help around 1,000 entrepreneurs in this field,” the minister said.

For claiming the revival package schemes, applications for the same should be submitted before November



REAPING LOSSES: A farmer weeding paddy fields in Kuttanad. The sector is reportedly facing a shortage of workers due to Covid

30, he added. Earlier, the minister had informed the tourism industry leaders that the government was planning to reopen tourism activities in the state by the first week of October. The minister, in an interaction with the tourism panel members of the Confederation of Indian Industry, Kerala chapter said the department has prepared a detailed report regarding the opening of tourism activities of the state, including a new marketing strategy to attract tourists to Kerala. The

plan includes highlighting the importance of wellness and Ayurveda for immunity. The file has been presented to Chief Minister and Health Department for their advice, the minister reportedly told the CII team members.

Thomas John Muthoot, Chairman, CII Kerala had led the discussion with the government. The industry body demanded the government to forgo the mandatory quarantine norms for tourists, provided they return in seven days.