

TIMES OF INDIA

Tourism on the anvil for historic Vendallur

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TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kozhikode: State tourism department has expressed its willingness to set up tourism project at the history-rich hillock of Vendallur at Valanchery in Malappuram where researchers from Calicut University had found evidence of continuous human settlement from megalithic post-hole burial cists and petroglyphs—dating back to Iron Age—to hundreds of clay dolls from the late medieval period.

Tourism deputy director in Malappuram has, in a letter to the department, said that the evidence of pre-historic human habitations that were discovered near



A file picture of clay dolls from the late medieval period excavated from hillock of Vendallur at Valanchery in Malappuram

the premises of Parambatu Kavay Bhagavathi Temple by researchers of Calicut University, requires immediate steps for preservation.

The department has recommended that if the archaeology department takes steps to preserve the site, then tourism department

can set up facilities under the pilgrim tourism project.

"Invaluable historical evidence which were discovered from the premises of the temple could be destroyed due to interferences by anti-social groups, encroachers and laterite quarry groups," the deputy director said in the letter to the tourism director.

Tourism authorities in Malappuram have recommended that once the archaeology department takes over historical evidence discovered from the site and puts in place steps for their preservation, then the department can set up basic infrastructure to enable visitors see and understand the

remnants under the pilgrim tourism project.

Prof P Sivadasan from Calicut University history department, who had led the studies at the site, said that even three years after the discoveries were made at the site - which could have hosted continuous human settlement from Iron Age to the present day - no steps were initiated to preserve the historical evidence.

"There is no compound wall for the temple ground. It would be a welcome development if tourism department and other government agencies take steps to preserve and help showcase the rich history of Vendallur," he said.