

# TIMES OF INDIA

Tourism sector asks govt aid for revival

Date : 3.8.2020 | Edition : All Kerala | Page : 4 | Clip size (cm) : W: 9 H: 14

## Tourism sector asks govt aid for revival

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

### Thiruvananthapuram:

The Confederation of Kerala Tourism Industry (CKTI) has sought an urgent financial aid package and other recovery measures from the state and central governments for the survival of the tourism industry.

At least 15 lakh employees directly linked to travel, tourism, and hospitality segments are fighting for survival since the start of Covid-19 outbreak, stated CKTI.

“Tourism is the most important revenue-generating sector in Kerala with total revenue of Rs 45,000 crore, which makes up 11.5% of the state’s GDP and employs more than 15 lakh,” CKTI office-bearers said here on Sunday.

“The sector’s foreign exchange revenue of Rs. 10000 crore during the last financial year goes far beyond the IT sector. It is one of the hardest-hit sectors in Kerala. Unfortunately, no relief measures were given by the central or state governments to date and most of the workfor-

ce is jobless, a majority of the investors and stakeholders are finding it difficult to maintain their businesses. Some have moved to different areas trying to salvage their businesses like fish sales, online and offline trade of pickles and foodstuff, housekeeping contracts, etc.”

In a recently held series of online meetings, around 35 registered trade associations part of the sector decided to continue under CKTI and re-elected E.M Najeeb as the president, Sajeew Kurup as general secretary, Jose Dominic as an advisor and G. Gopinath as the treasurer.

“The various associations under CKTI have made representations and offered suggestions to the governments. These demands are completely justifiable given the situation and include waiving of taxes for one year and fixed electricity tariffs. The industry requests this from both state and central governments to ensure that the tourism industry survives this crisis,” the statement said.