

Regarding need to include Kalady-Malayattoor-Athirappilly-Kodungalloor-Azheekode-Muziris-Thirumoozhikulam Integrated Tourism Circuit under PRASHAD/Swadesh Darshan-Laid

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY): I wish to draw the attention of the Ministry of Tourism to the urgent need for including the KaladyMalayattoorAthirappillyKodungalloorAzheekodeMuzirisThirumoozhikulam Integrated Tourism Circuit under the Special Tourism Circuit Scheme of the Government of India. This circuit connects some of Kerala's most important spiritual, cultural, heritage and eco-tourism destinations, including the birthplace of Adi Shankara in Kalady, the St. Thomas pilgrimage centre at Malayattoor, Athirappilly Waterfalls, Kodungalloor Temple, Azheekode Beach, the historic Muziris heritage region, and the Thirumoozhikulam Lakshmana Temple. These sites span Ernakulam and Thrissur districts and have immense potential to boost international, domestic, and airport-linked tourism, especially with Cochin International Airport as the primary entry point. However, the region urgently requires integrated connectivity, including better coordination of NH-544/66, improved rail access, dedicated tourist shuttle services, and essential tourist amenities such as wayfinding, parking, sanitation, waste management, and heritage conservation. This integrated circuit will significantly enhance tourist experience, strengthen local livelihoods, and promote sustainable economic growth. I request the Ministry to approve this circuit, extend central financial assistance, and fast-track development under PRASHAD/Swadesh Darshan, in coordination with NHAI, MoRTH, and CIAL.