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MUZIRIS NEWS

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PANDIT KARUPPAN

THE PREDECESSOR OF
HERITAGE CONSERVATION
AND SOCIAL REFORMER

PANDIT
KARUPPAN



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Kerala has been recognized as one of the best tourist marques in the world. It achieved through a public-private partnership driven by local entrepreneurs and responsible tourism initiatives involving the local community. Muziris heritage projects showcased the rich cultural heritage of coastal Kerala. The destinations are undoubtedly greatest in its network of backwaters - a web of lagoons fed by perennial rivers crisscrossing the entire region. The jewel in Muziris's crown is undoubtedly its network of backwaters and the monuments seen along the banks of the different water bodies. Muziris has always attracted domestic and foreign tourists with its natural beauty and heritage concept. 2021 brought a huge setback to Kerala Tourism with the pandemics. We could not overcome the crisis completely; however, we moved on with strategic planning, implementing a well-thought-out plan. Each of us in the tourism industry needs to take definite steps towards attaining the goal of Tourism. My appreciation and wishes to the projects in bringing out Kerala Tourism in international standard.



- B. Jyothish Kumar
- Reema M.S.

Special Thanks

Pooyappilli Thankappan
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PANDIT KARUPPAN

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CONSERVATION AND SOCIAL REFORMER

Pandit Karuppan, better known as Kerala Lincoln, was the man who sowed the seeds of silent social progress and renaissance in the first decades of the 20th century in the country of Kochi. Karuppan was a reformer in Kerala who used literature for social change. Born in the Vala, an inland fisherman community of Cheranalur in 1885, Karuppan was one of the pioneers who worked for



Kallyanadhayini Sabha at Anappuzha, Kodungallur, established by Pandit Karuppan

communities and brought them to his home and encouraged them. Karuppan sang folk songs with the artist and corrected the typos in their songs. He re-enacted many folk songs on the stage on many occasions that would have gone unnoticed.

Karuppan organised the people of his community into regional groups called sabhās. The main agenda of the sabhās was to persuade people to fight ignorance and superstitions. He put strong pressure on his groups to become better educated and accept a healthier lifestyle. He organised the first Valasamudaya Parishkarini Sabha, established in 1909 at Thevara was later renamed Sudharma Suryodayam sabha. Another The Kalyanidaini sabha established at Anappuzha in Kodungallur, Prabodha Chandrodayam Sabhā (North Paravur), Araya Vamsodharani Sabhā (Engandiyoor), and Sanmarga Pradeepa Sabhā (Kumbalam) the Sudharmodayam established at Ayyampilly on the Vypin are other sabhās that Pandit Karuppan patronised. All these sabhas aimed to achieve the upliftment of the subaltern Dalit castes. Pandit Karuppan was the leader of Kayal Sammelanam. First Kayal sammelanam was conducted on Kochi Kayal on 14th February 1913.

Karuppan gave equal emphasis to the emancipation of other communities, too, as seen through the formation of the Cochin Pulaya Maha Sabhā for the uplift of the Pulaya community in 1913. There was also a great change in the custom and practices of the Vala community. Instead of worshipping Yakshi Madan, Muthappan, Chathan and Gandharva, they adopted the Brahmanical idols likes Subramanian, Shiva and Ganapati. Pandit Karuppan left his mark as a poet, teacher, social reformer, and legislator and was also indescribable glory. In August 1925, he was nominated as a member of the Cochin Legislative Council to represent the hitherto disenfranchised classes in recognition of his tireless crusade for Avarna's emancipation through writings and campaigns. As MLC, Karuppan presented their problems and grievances before the authorities argued for better education, health, and living conditions. In the Kochi Legislative Assembly, Karuppanu was able to say that the modernization of a country does not depend only on its flora and fauna but on the education of its people. Pandit Karuppan was the first to argue in the Kochi Legislative Assembly that the government should pay more attention to primary education and set up special schools.



Heritage WALK

Students Cultural Heritage Festival



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Students' Heritage Walk is an informal educational programme introduced by the Muziris Heritage Project to provide students with a visual experience of Kerala's history. The program started in November 2021.

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Student Heritage Walk Trial Run

The trial run of the heritage walk started on 11th November 2021. The students from various schools, including V K Rajan Memorial G H S Pullut, Edavilangu G H S S, Govt. G H S Paravur were participated in the intial program.



World Heritage Week Closing Ceremony

Opposition leader and the Paravur M L A V D Satheesan inaugurated the concluding session of the World Heritage Week celebrations organized by the Muziris Heritage Project. The Muziris Heritage Project conducted one-day heritage walk for students on the occasion of World Heritage Week. It became a new experience for 55 students from Government Boys Higher Secondary School. They visited the Paravur Jewish Synagogue, Gothuruth Chavittunataka performance centre, Kottapuram Fort, Paliam Nalukettu and Paliam Kovilakam museums. The project also coordinated a program on 'Edakoodam', a traditional wooden puzzle based on carpentry and mathematics. An ancient art form, Chavittunadakam performed for students. M L A distributed learning kits to all participants, and the kit includes activity books, pen, pencil, jut cap and bag. Municipal chairperson V A Prabhavati presided over the function. Muziris Project limited Managing Director P M Nowshad, Councilor M K Banerjee, Muziris Marketing Manager Ibrahim Sabin and School Headmistress A S Cini were present.



Heritage Walk - Pullut School

Kodungallur MLA Adv VR Sunil Kumar inaugurated the heritage walk of the students from Pullut School.

Residential program

The residential program of Heritage Walk was held on December 12 and 13. The boating for the students started from the Kottapuram waterfront and reached the Paliam heritage museums located at Chendamangalam. Students had an opportunity to interact with the artefacts displayed in the museums. On the same day, they also visited the Kottapuram fort, and in the evening, Chavittu Natakam was performed in front of the students. On the second day, they went to the Munambam boatyard. After visiting the Paravur Synagogue, they could experience the traditional fishing system and Chinese nets. The journey ended at Kottapuram waterfront. Learning kits were distributed, including activity books of various museums, jute caps, jute bags, and eco-friendly pens filled with different seeds.





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INDIAN NAVY - WHALER PULLING & CYCLING EXPEDITION AT MUZIRIS

Despite the heavy rain, the navy's strength and speed made the voyage boat pulling and cycling excited the spectators who had gathered on the shores of the fort. As part of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebrations, the Whaler Pulling Offshore Cycling Exploration conducted in collaboration with the Indian Navy Muziris Heritage Project was impressive. The Indian Navy's Training Squad led the expeditions from the Kochi Naval Base to the Muziris Heritage Project area. The group consisted of 175 members who had completed their studies at the Ezhimala Naval Academy. The groups travelled 20 nautical miles from the naval headquarters in Kochi to the Kottapuram Amphitheater. VR Sunilkumar MLA inaugurated the function held at Kottapuram Amphitheater. Capt. Aftab Ahmed, Commanding Officer of the Teer Ship and Senior Officer, Navy First Training Squadron, was the Chief Guest. PM Nowshad, Managing Director, Muziris projects limited,



Municipal Councilors T. D Venkateshwaran, VM Francis Bekan, VM Johnny, Commanders Mithun Mohan and Prashant Shandalia, Muziris Marketing Manager Ibrahim Sabin, Museum Managers, Sajana Vasandaraj MV Nimmi and Dr Midhun Sekhar were present. Jnanasundari Chavittu Natakam performed on the stage



A solar boat in Muziris

The solar boat, handed over by the Kochi International Airport Company (CIAL) for the Muziris heritage project, reached the Kottapuram beach on 4th November 2021. Kerala Waterways and Infrastructure Limited own the boat. In the wake of the revival in the tourism sector after the covid epidemic. In the total of 24 seats, 12 seats are AC. The boat is equipped with 15 solar panels on the rooftop. It can travel up to five hours on a single charge. CIAL Deputy General Manager Satish Kumar handed over the boat to Muziris Marketing Manager Ibrahim Sabin. Museum Manager Sajana Vasantharaj, Junior Executives Akhil S. Bhadrans, Haran Duth and PD Bindu were present.



Boating

Ernakulam District Panchayat President Ullas Thomas and members visited Muziris Heritage Project Museums and Sites in 17th November 2021. Projects arranged cruise boat for the group.



Education Department-Meeting

The concluding session of the Vivekananda Anniversary celebrations held on December 5, 6 and 7 was held at Kottapuram. Ahead of the event, the delegation, Madan Mohan, Deputy Director, Department of Education, convened a meeting at the International Convention Center in Pullut, Kodungallur.



Staff meeting

A staff meeting was held on November 22 to discuss the Student Heritage Walk activities.



A.M.A meeting

In connection with the Students' Heritage Walk, the project held a meeting with Approved Muziris Ambassadors, the locally trained guides, on November 18.



Alappuzha Heritage Project on the special cover of the postal department

A special postal cover has been released in collaboration with the Postal Department to promote the Alappuzha Heritage Project. These covers will get great importance in the Indian Philatelic Collection connected to heritage conservation and monuments. Regional Postmaster General Mariamma IAS released the Special Cover at a function held at the New Model Society, Alappuzha. Municipal Chairperson S Soumya Raj, Muziris projects limited Managing Director PM Nowshad and others were present. Alappuzha MLA H. Salam received the postal cover.



Alappuzha with Public participation

Muziris Project Managing Director Shri PM Nowshad held discussions with the Merchants to ensure smooth and transparent operation of the businesses under the Alappuzha project area. Merchants from the project area were present at the discussion which was held at the New Model Coir Society's Alappuzha Heritage Project Information Center.

Information boards

About 25 information boards have been set up and placed area which comes under the Alappuzha heritage project zone. The aim is to make the public aware of the need to keep the canal clean



Kannan Varkey walkway and Muppalam Bridge - Beautification

The beautification of the Muppalam bridge is underway. Alappuzha Heritage Project restored the defunct lights on both sides of the Muppalam bridge. The Project cleared the Kannan Varkey walkway and opened for the public.



Lokame Tharavad has been extended till December 30

The event, which will be attended by 267 artists from around the world, has been extended to December 30. The Living Coir Museum, the Labor Movement Museum and the Port Museum of the Alappuzha Heritage Project are home to more than 3,000 works of art from all over the world.

ONE CRORE FOR CHERAMAN JUMA MASJID



The state government has sanctioned Rs 1 crore for the renovation of the Cheraman Juma Masjid in Kodungallur as part of the Muziris Heritage Project. Advocate VR Sunilkumar MLA said that the funds allocated for the renovation and beautification of the compound wall of the old mosque. The mosque is believed to have been built in the 7th century. Several contemporary architectural features were added to the mosque after 1974. These modern additions were removed and restored the old mosque as part of the project at the cost of 1.18 crores.

MATERIAL CULTURE IN MUZIRIS

PATTANAM WARE

Museum : Pattanam Children Museum
Name of Object : Ceramics
Material : Clay
Size : Sherds

Site Description:

Potsherd recovered from the archaeological site called Pattanam (N. Lat. 10°09.434'; E. Long. 76°12.587'), located in Vadakkekara village of Paravur Taluk in the Ernakulam District in Kerala, India.



Artefact Description:

There are some distinct types of pottery whose provenance and character are uncertain. All such pottery with distinct fabric and morphology, yet not belonging to the recognized categories, has been termed Unidentified Distinct Pottery by the Pattanam excavation team.

Pattanam Ware is one major type of distinct yet unidentified pottery. These sherds are pink, with white inclusions. Most of the sherds seem to belong to thick storage vessels, with a few from thinner vessels as well. This type with unknown provenance was excavated probably for the first time at Pattanam. This group has been temporarily named Pattanam Ware but without any claim that they belong to the Pattanam region. More recently, similar sherds have been found from the site of Khor Rori in Oman.