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Press Release

Minister Riyas to inaugurate work on under-bridge public space at Kollam

- **Recreational amenities on 70-cent plot to come up under Design Policy**

Thiruvananthapuram, July 18: Marking the integration of tourism projects with the state's innovative design policy, Tourism Minister Shri P.A. Mohamed Riyas will, on Saturday, inaugurate the work on turning the space under the railway bridge in Kollam into a public amenity.

The Rs 2 crore project below the railway bridge near S.N. College in Kollam city will lead to the development of 70 cents of earmarked land. The recreational facilities will benefit the youth, children and the elders along the area that has remained neglected for decades. It also marks the beginning of a state-wide project to convert unused public spaces into people-friendly spots.

Finance Minister Shri K N Balagopal will be the chief guest at the function at Nehru Park, which will be presided over by M. Noushad, MLA. Mayor Smt Prasanna Earnest and Shri N.K. Premachandran, MP, will also be present.

The comprehensive design policy formulated by the government is aimed at creation of aesthetically appealing, sustainable and inclusive public asset.

Conceived scientifically and set to be executed with attention to the last detail, the plan envisages walking tracks, street furniture, food kiosks, courts for games such as badminton and basketball, a chess block, skating area, open gym and yoga-cum-meditation centre. After completion, the cost for their maintenance will be met from the revenue generated by the project. The initiative will be run by the District Tourism Promotion Council and Municipal Council besides allied departments.

Set to give Kollam a new slot on the tourism map, the project is part of the state's Design Policy that seeks to make tourism destinations more comfortable for the men, women and children, pedestrians or otherwise.

The other speakers at the function will be Secretary (Tourism) Shri K. Biju, Kerala Tourism Infrastructure Ltd Chairman Shri S.K. Sajeesh, Kollam District Collector Shri Devidas N. and Municipal Corporation Councillor A.K. Sawad, besides Tourism Director Smt Sikha Surendran and KSTL Managing Director Dr Manoj Kumar K.