

TN to launch trekking trails in 40 forest spots

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Chennai: Trekking enthusiasts, prepare your backpacks and camouflage attire as the TN Wildlife authorities are set to launch one-day trekking trips in various forest areas across the state. To facilitate this, the 'TN Wilderness Experience Corporation' has been established, and the first trial trek from Avalanche to Koleribetta was completed on Saturday.

Vismiju Viswanathan, head of the newly created corporation, told TOI that 40 locations across 18 forest divisions have been identified for the treks.

A total of 400 people have been trained as guides, with each trekking route staffed by 10 trained guides.

The trekking routes in TN are categorized as easy, moderate, and tough, and include well-known tourism destinations. Of the 124 approved trekking routes in TN, only 40 have been selected, he said.

The guides have been trained in basic hospitality, hygiene, local biodiversity, first aid, back drill, and communication skills. They have been provided with backpacks, trekking shoes, and uniforms. The treks will be moderate, limited to one day, with no camping in the forest areas, he added.

Each trek will be limited to a maximum of 15 participants. The department will provide basic refreshments, and the charges for each trek will range from 600 to 5,000.

Additionally, the department will provide insurance coverage to participants, a crucial component of the trekking program, Viswanathan said.

The corporation is expected to sign a memorandum of understanding with an insurance company in the coming week.

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Lieutenant General Rajesh Pushkar greeted the Pine Division Warriors at Vijay Smarak in Ambala after their nine-day expedition through Pin Parvati Valley. Led by Major Puneet Kumar, the 15-member team traversed over 100 km in high-altitude conditions. The expedition honored Independence Day and veterans, showcasing the Indian Army's spirit of adventure and commitment.112954012

Allu Arjun takes break from work, enjoys trekking with wife Sneha Reddy and kids Arha and Ayaan - See photos
Allu Arjun recently took a break from his busy filming schedule to enjoy a vacation with his family. He spent quality time with his wife Sneha Reddy and children. Sneha shared memorable snapshots from their trekking adventure showing Arjuns bond with daughter Arha. Professionally, Arjun is preparing for Pushpa 2: The Rise, releasing in December.112932796

Poland says students arrested in Nigeria have been released
A group of Polish students arrested in Nigeria have been released, according to Poland's foreign ministry. Nigerians protested President Bola Tinubu's economic reforms, which have increased fuel and electricity costs. Nigeria had accused the Polish students of raising Russian flags during the protests, a claim Poland denied, saying they were only near the protest.112870601