

10 Priority Sites at Chilika to Boost Tourist Footfall

By Express News Service

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BHUBANESWAR: At least 10 priority sites have been identified for Chilika lake and its catchment areas under the tourism master plan which is being devised under the World Bank-aided Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP). The master plan includes a number of new tourist attractions, complete with modern yet eco-friendly amenities, so that there is an increase in footfall to the lagoon without minimum environmental burden on the wetland. One of the major projects which the document proposes is establishment of an iconic tower at Satapada which will be promoted as the signature tourist attraction for Chilika. It will have a lagoon park including an aquarium and bird gallery, food court and other amenities.



ICZMP MASTER PLAN

THE MASTER PLAN includes a number of new attractions to attract tourists to the lagoon without minimum environmental burden on the wetland

THE TOURISM MASTER PLAN IS BEING DEVISED UNDER THE WORLD BANK-AIDED INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

SINCE ISLAND TOURISM is growing in popularity, the master plan looks to develop an Eco Village at Breakfast Island

AN ICONIC TOWER WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT SATAPADA WHICH WILL BE PROMOTED AS THE SIGNATURE TOURIST ATTRACTION FOR CHILIKA

The Iconic tower can be projected as a symbol of Chilika and visible from a distance, the master plan says, adding that it must be developed as a destination in itself. From its top, the sea mouth, Nalabana Bird Sanctuary, Barakul, Honeymoon Island, Rambha and other landmarks should be visible. The plan envisages that the tower would be located on an area of 10 acre with an

estimated cost of Rs 74 crore. Similarly, a Hotels Hub has also been outlined at Satapada with a cost entailment of Rs 20.54 crore over a two-acre land.

The master plan also identified Day Cruise from Barakul and Satapada as an important component as it would cater to high-spending tourists. Water sports as a feature has also been included in the plan. Since Island Tourism is growing in popularity, the master plan looks to develop an Eco Village at Breakfast Island. "Island Tourism is one of the most promising tourist activities and Chilika is a hub of 44 such islands. This project will provide an opportunity for tourists to experience Chilika through a unique camping facility located in the middle of lagoon itself," said an official. Besides, there can be resort-cum-convention centre and tourist nodes at Rambha as well as Mangalajodi. Similarly, water-based recreational activities at Rambha and a natural habitat village at Khallikote are also part of the plan. The projects will be located across four different clusters - Mangalajodi, Khallikote, Rambha and Satapada. Apart from tourist facilities, social infrastructure such as schools have also been proposed. The projects are expected to boost the tourism potential of Chilika and encourage repeat visits since new amenities are being planned with better infrastructure. At a recent meeting, IPE Global, which has been assigned the master plan development project, delivered a presentation to the ICZMP authorities here. The projects are proposed to be taken up on PPP mode and help protect the livelihood of coastal communities while conserving the natural marine and coastal resources. A detailed financial feasibility has also been carried out.