

**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA**

No:- TOUR-B3/96/2026-TOUR  
Tourism (B) Department  
Thiruvananthapuram,  
Dated:03-06-2026

**CIRCULAR**

Sub: Tourism department - Discontinuation of approval of hotels at project stage - orders - reg

Ref: File no QS-10/68/2025 dated nil from Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

Whereas, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, has been granting approval/classification to hotels at both the project stage and the operational stage under the extant Guidelines dated 19.01.2018;

And whereas, approvals granted at the project stage are based on proposed infrastructure, planned facilities, and anticipated compliance with prescribed norms, rather than actual operational readiness and service delivery;

And whereas, upon careful examination of the matter, taking into consideration the continued demand from hospitality industry associations for discontinuation of such approvals and the recommendation made by the High-Level Committee for Non-Financial Regulations, it has been observed that the continuation of project-stage approvals is not aligned with the objectives of transparency, efficiency, outcome-based evaluation, and ease of doing business;

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that:

1. The system of granting approval to hotel projects at the project stage shall stand discontinued with effect from 16.03.2026.
2. Approvals already granted at the project stage shall remain valid only up to their existing validity period and shall not be eligible for any further extension.
3. Such projects shall be required to apply afresh for classification upon becoming operational, in accordance with the prevailing guidelines of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
4. All applications for project-stage approval pending as on 16.03.2026 shall be deemed closed.



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ADDITIONAL SECRETARY

To:

The Director, Department of Tourism, Thiruvananthapuram  
All concerned (through web and new media)