

Its surfing time at Manapadu

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

K. Antony Xavier

Tuticorin: Surfing will be the newest attraction at the Manapadu beach in Tuticorin. In this connection, an exclusive resort was inaugurated in the coastal town by the district collector, Ashish Kumar on Tuesday.

Manapadu is considered one of the best places for the sport by professional surfers. Professionals from the UK, US and Australia were present in the coastal village to exhibit their skills on Tuesday. After inaugurating the private surfing resort, Kumar interacted with the surfers eager to know the surfing prospects in the area.

Later, the professional surfers took their surfing boards to the sea and delighted the locals with their skills. Enthusiastic lads jumped into the sea and the surfers taught them some techniques too.

Kumar said the district administration is involved in supporting the private concern to make it a sustainable model. It was sort of informal introduction of water sports in the coastal town as state government itself is planning to come up with such centre in Manapadu. The state government project is in the estimation stage, he said. "We are supporting the private con-



BAYWATCH: Professionals surfers from Miami perform at the newly-inaugurated private surfing resort at Manapadu seashore in Tuticorin district on Tuesday

cern's initiative with all formalities. It is also a step in regulating the activities so that the water sport events are carried out safely," he said.

Arun Miranda and his wife Francina Miranda, Chennai-based industrialists are promoting 'Villa de Joseph,' the private surfing resort as part of their social entrepreneurship initiative since Manapadu is the native place of their ancestors. "Our major objective is the involvement of the local people and we have picked up four local youth from Manapadu who will be training as surfing guides," said Arun. "They will be undergoing intensive training in Chennai next month and all

our staff in the resort, are from Manapadu. We want to do something for our native place as both our paternal ancestors are from this place," Arun stated.

The resort will have six well-furnished rooms and surfing equipment will be made available for the people coming to the resort. The surfing experts will help them in the sport. A team of experts in kite surfing will come over to Manapadu next month, they said. "Manapadu is one of the best surfing places in the entire world and the best in India. The potential of this place should be well utilised and the effort is just beginning," Arun added.