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Devotees are having a hassle-free darshan at Sabarimala: Devaswom Minister

The devotees coming to Sabarimala is having a smooth darshan of Lord Ayyappa and all are happy with the arrangements made here as part of the Mandala-Makaravilakku festival, said Kadakampally Surendran, Minister for Devaswom, here on Saturday. Minister was speaking to a meeting of all department's head to review the facilities made at Sabarimala.

He also said that the spread of news that the devotees are faced with many difficulties has turned out to be a hoax created by certain vested interest people to purposefully malign the Sabarimala and pilgrimage. The increase in the number of devotees proves that people have discarded such news.

Minister also said that he had chat with more than 300 of devotees from other states and not a single person has raised any sort of complaint. Moreover, they all state that they had a good darshan this time and were happy with all the arrangements. Devotees have overthrown the interest of certain people to topple the smooth going Sabarimala pilgrimage. The number of devotees on the 13 days since the start of the pilgrimage season touches to 61600 proves it, he said.

There are also efforts from some corners in spreading fake news to put a stop to the flow of devotees from other states. The concerted efforts were however turned failure and devotees are coming in large numbers.

Minister also said that police have not made any restriction for darshan at Vavar Nada. However, the police put some barricades as part of the security arrangements. They have made such a system by making way for devotees to reach the Nada. He also said that boards would be placed for the devotees to know the way to Vavar Nada and Mahakanikka after their visit to Malikappuram.

He said that the flood has not affected Sannidhanam. It is the unnecessary constructions at Pamba made the situation worse. The government will not encourage any kind of permanent construction near Pamba. Nilakkal will be made a base camp and the pilgrimage will be done accordingly. He also directed KSRTC authorities to make necessary arrangements to put a stop to the difficulties faced by devotees in transportation. He also said that queue system will be made at Nilakkal and Pamba for the devotees to board KSRTC buses.

(PR-64)

Government made basic facilities at Nilakkal on a record speed: Devaswom Minister

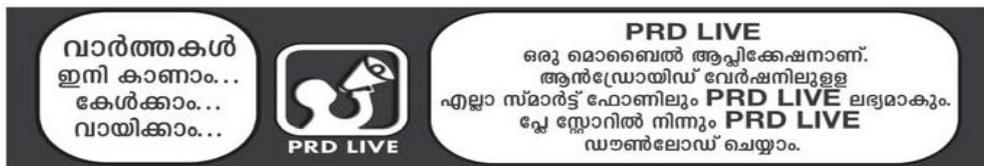
The recent floods have destroyed the constructions that were made flouting the rules. The constructions that stood the way of the river Pamba was all washed away and the place was left in a dilapidated condition after the floods. It is the timely intervention of the government in making the basic facilities at Nilakkal that made this pilgrimage season possible, said Kadakampally Surendran, Devaswom Minister. He was speaking to media at Sannidhanam on Saturday.

He said that it was two months before that the floods have happened and the various government departments were coordinated in bringing basic facilities for the devotees at Sabarimala. The government had handed over the job of constructing basic facilities to Tata Projects Limited to make it

real in a short time span. This has helped in making facilities like toilet, barricades, and space of viri laying at Nilakkal for the devotees. The government had spent Rs 25 lakhs for this. Minister also said that the Tata Projects Limited has promised to do all these things on a sponsorship basis.

He added that the government had made it possible to provide basic amenities to devotees at Pamba as well. It is to regain the lost glory of Pamba will be the aim of Sabarimala Master Plan, said the minister.

(PR-65)



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