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PRESS RELEASE

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Makarajyothi: Preparations at Sabarimala is at the final stages

Sabarimala temple is fast preparing for the Makaravilakku festivals. The Devaswom Board and other departments of the state government are quickly responding to finish the facilities and plan the meeting chaired by the Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran has decided on December 27. Everything, as planned, is nearing to end.

It is anticipated that the rush at Sabarimala would go up by January 11 and the facilities are going on steady pace here. The basic facilities like drinking water, free-food, and others have already in its final stages. A meeting to review the facilities and preparation of various department would take place at Sannidhanam soon. The Kerala Police has decided to beef up the security at the temple on January 14; on the Makaravilakku day. The Police will divide the Sannidhanam to various zones and deploy sufficient officers as part of the security enhancement. It has also decided to take special care where the devotees come together in large numbers to see the Makarajyothi. A review

meeting of various security forces at Sabarimala the other day has decided on the plans to be implemented to so as to avoid any lapse in security when the devotees return from the temple and its premises after witnessing the Makarajyothi. Facilities will be made at Sannidhanam and at fly over to see the Makarajyothi. This year the festival is on January 14 evening at 7.52.

Minister Kadakampally Surendran will come in person to review the arrangements at Sabarimala prior to Makarajyothi. The President and members of the Devaswom Board will camp at the temple in giving guidelines to the preparation activities.

Meanwhile, the flow of devotees to Sabarimala is continuing. KSRTC too has stepped in with a number of extra services between Nilakkal and Pamba and also to other states. They have also made facilities to book online tickets through their kiosks at Nilakkal bus terminal.

(PR-145)

Makarajyothi Festival: More lights to be planted

With the Makarajyothi festival has almost neared, the KSEB makes arrangements to establish electric lamps at Sabarimala. The activities for this has already started said the KSEB Assistant Engineer at Sannidhanam.

KSEB will install 500 led bulbs and tubes at various places at Sannidhanam, Pullumedu, Pandithavalam, Saramkuthy, Marakkottam, Sabaripedom, Appachiemedu etc. The maintenance works of the already installed lamps have done when the temple was closed after the Mandala Pooja. KSEB is working to ensure that Sabarimala will have a non-stop power flow during the Makarajyothi festival.

(PR-146)

Six lakh devotees served with free-food at Sabarimala

This year, the Devaswom Board has made the annadanam (free-food) to 6,21,530 devotees. The data is from November 16, 2018, to January 3, 2019. The free-food is served every day three times from morning till night. Devotees can collect a coupon from the Devaswom offices and can become part of the annadanam. It is estimated that a total of 15,000 devotees is using this facility on a daily basis. With Makarajyothi festival nearing, there are chances of an increase in the devotees using the free-food facility, said Devaswom Board assistant executive officer D Jayakumar. Board is collecting funds from devotees to run the annadanam facility and devotees can contribute to it.

(PR-147)

