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Water treatment of Bhasmakkulam doubled in the wake of Makaravilakku rush

Sabarimala: In the wake of the rush during the Makaravilakku festival here, the water treatment of the Bhasmakkulam (temple pond) has been doubled. Along with the existing water treatment system of the state Pollution Control Board (PCB), the water that spills out from the Kokkarni natural source is re-directed to the temple pond and that way the treatment of water here in the pond gets doubled. Around 8000 liters of water per hour is redirected to the pond using a separate pumping system and in such a way, it would enable to maintain the naturality of the water in the temple pond. This also will help to stop the water being spilled over from Kokkarni to the place where devotees lay their viri (bed) for rest.

This problem was brought to attention the other day at the review meeting. Based on the meeting that the decision to re-direct the water using a motor to the temple has been made on a war-foot scale. The Kokkarni was used as the only water supplant for the needs of Sannidhanam before the construction of the Kunnar pipeline in 1956. Since after the restriction of the Kerala PCB, the usage of water from the Kokkarni has been limited, said the authorities.

Makaravilakku rush: Devotees should care to not miss their kids

Sabarimala: In the purview of the increase in the rush at Sabarimala, the Fire and Rescu Force has alerted the devotees not to lose their children in the crowd. They directed the devotees to make their children wear a tag with cards identifying them with at least three contact numbers in it. This would help the authorities to reunite the kids with their parents in the case of missing or lost in the crowd, said Fire and Rescue special officer T Rajeesh.

Fire and Rescue arrangements enhanced at Sabarimala

Sabarimala: Fire and Rescue Department has strengthened the security measures at Sabarimala during the Makaravilakku festival. The officers took out the inspection at the shops from Marakkoottam to Saramkuthi on Wednesday. The small shops here have given warning not to cook food or burn stoves since it will increase the possibility of a fire breakout. They also took steps to stop the use of LPG by the coffee vendors near the queue complex at Sannidhanam.

It has also been found that devotees are lighting the camphor in plates and it is taken along the Sannidhanam Valiya nadapandal flyover as part of a ritual. This is posing serious threat and steps taken to stop this. In order to look into the Fire and Security arrangements at Sannidhanam and Sabarimala the Fire Force divisional officer (technical) R Prasad will camp at 13, 14 and 15 of the month at Sannidhanam. Fire and Rescue officer T Rajeesh and station officer Sivakumar lead the raid on Wednesday.

Raid in shops: Duty Magistrate gives warning to shopkeepers who fail to exhibit price of goods

Sabarimala: The shops that were not in compliance to follow the rules of exhibiting the price rates and license certificate will be made their shutters down without any prior notice, said Duty Magistrate S Santhoshkumar. The duty magistrate and his team on Wednesday inspected the shops and hotels here. The inspection had also found that the hotels in Sannidhanam and Queue complex are using LPG to cook food and this was immediately stopped. The license given for the coffeshops include only of selling coffee and tea through the wending machine and those working against this has been stopped.

The sale of goods in these shops that do not include in the permissible list is also stopped. The sale of the lottery in the Sannidhanam premise is also stopped. The duty magistrate has given the final warning to those shops that failed to exhibit the price of goods.

Executive Magistrate J Narayanan, Junior Superintend K S Santhoshkumar, Legal Metrology inspector V K Preman, Rationing Inspector L P Saji, Village officer also took part in the raid.

Toll-free number to register complaints regarding food

Sabarimala: A toll-free number has been facilitated by the Food Safety department for the devotees to inform the fraud in quantity and quality of edible items in the hotels at Sabarimala. The number is 1800 4251125. The raid conducted by the Excise department at Sabarimala and Sannidhanam had seized 100 packets of Hans, 90 packets of tobacco powder, 120 packets of beedi, 80 matchboxes. These items were later destroyed. The raid has also nabbed an old woman engaged in begging. Kashamma (65) from Thiruvannamalai was later handed over to the police. CI KK Anilkumar leads the raid on Wednesday.

Coconut saplings planted by devotes at Sabarimala to give greater yields

Sabarimala: For many years, it has been a custom to carry coconut saplings along with the 'irumudikkettu' to Sabarimala when one completes their 18th visit to Sabarimala. It is only after planting the sapling that they would be elevated to the position of 'guruswamy'. This 'guruswamy' would guide the team of devotees from next year onward. He will oversee the ritualistic preparations and 41-day strict penance of his juniors. Other state devotees follow the practice largely and it has been catching up slowly with Malayalee devotees as well. The brought saplings are later planted at a space allotted for the purpose exclusively near to Bhasmakkulam at Sannidhanam. The practice has been done as a tribute and respect to the deity Lord Ayyappa.

Since with the increase in the number of devotees and saplings, the Devaswom Board has leased contractors to take away the saplings. Now, these saplings would descend the Sabarimala hills every year and the healthy ones will go on sale in various nurseries of the state. It is believed that the saplings outgrow their infancy would yield more coconut to the farmers.



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