



GOVT. OF KERALA

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

JANUARY

15

2019



**PRESS RELEASE-1**

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## **Base camp at Nilakkal can accommodate 35000 devotees from next year: Devaswom Board**

The base camp at Nilakkal will have the viri laying facility for 35000 devotees from the next year onwards, said Travancore Devaswom Board president A Padmakumar. He also added that permanent toilet facilities will also be made at the base camp. He also said that the Board is mooting plan to build a bridge over Pamba hilltop to Ganapathy temple and also will bring free bus service in the route between Nilakkal and Pamba. He was speaking at a review meeting after the successful completion of Makarajyothi festival. President also said that the state government has already set aside Rs 105 crore for the Seethathode drinking water distribution facility.

He added that the Board has started preparations for the pilgrimage season months before and the cooperation from all the departments have helped to take forward the preparations. The floods, however, had made the activities slow and has thrown a gargantuan challenge of rebuilding the lost grounds. The Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan soon after coming back from his treatment had called forth for a meeting to decide on the activities to be done at Sabarimala. On the basis of the meeting, the Tata Construction Limited has taken over the rebuilding

activities here. They have done it for free and this helped to save a Rs 25 crore, said the president.

Meanwhile, the supreme court order of allowing women to enter Sabarimala was used as a tool by certain people and party in turning the Holy Hillocks a place of a riot. They have tried all they could turn the place into chaos. However, the intervention of the government and police have made the situation under control and made smooth darshan for the devotees. This has happened due to the joint efforts of the Travancore Devaswom Board, state government and High Court appointed Monitoring Committee.

There saw a decrease in the income this year at Sabarimala and this has been due to the false news spread by a certain section of the people. They have however ultimately with this false campaign made the livelihood of some 13000 employees of the Board in difficulty. But Board is confident to scale over the difficulty as the government will help to solve the financial woes.

(PR-180)

<p>വാർത്തകൾ ഇനി കാണാം... കേൾക്കാം... വായിക്കാം...</p>	 <p>PRD LIVE</p>	<p><b>PRD LIVE</b> ഒരു മൊബൈൽ ആപ്ലിക്കേഷനാണ്. ആൻഡ്രോയിഡ് വേർഷനിലുള്ള എല്ലാ സ്മാർട്ട് ഫോണിലും <b>PRD LIVE</b> ലഭ്യമാകും. പ്ലേ സ്റ്റോറിൽ നിന്നും <b>PRD LIVE</b> ഡൗൺലോഡ് ചെയ്യാം.</p>
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