



GOVT. OF KERALA

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

DECEMBER

27

2018



PRESS RELEASE- 1

PHONE : 04735-202664

www.prd.kerala.gov.in, prdsannidhanam2019@gmail.com

***Departments should strengthen
coordination and precautionary steps during
Makaravilakku festival: Devaswom Minister***

The various departments under the Kerala Government should take necessary steps in strengthening the coordination for the smooth conduct of Makaravilakku festival, said the Devaswom Minister Kadakampalli Surendran. The officers should be alert in facing any emergency situation at Sabarimala during the festival season. The improvement of the parking facility at Nilakkal should be speeded up. The officers concerned should take care in preventing the devotees camping inside the forest during the Makaravilakku festival. Minister also said that the firefighting equipment should be made mandatory at the shops and for this awareness should be given to the hoteliers.

Minister also said that devotees should climb the hills with taking necessary steps on each phase and those who are having heart problems should take extra care in climbing the hills. Messages asking the devotees not to rush

while climbing the hills will be made at the trekking path. He also said that the distance between the drinking taps will be made shorter. The taps will be installed at the roadside so as to avoid clogging of water. Minister also directed the officials to speed up the procedures to collect the parking fees at Nilakkal. He also urged the officials to come united in making the Makaravilakku season a success and added that the Monitoring Committee appointed by the High Court has aired a good opinion about the facilities made at Sabarimala for the pilgrimage season.

(PR-130)

More facilities to be made during Makaravilakku festival

The Devaswom Minister Kadakampalli Surendran has said that the defects in the facilities during the Mandala season should be rectified and more facilities should be expanded during the Makaravilakku festival. He said that the Mandala pilgrimage at Sabarimala, however, was able to complete successfully amidst plenty of problems. He congratulated the employees and offices for making it.

Meanwhile, the various department heads and Force chiefs have placed their reports before the Minister in the meeting at Sannidhanam. They have put forward certain suggestions to be followed during the Makaravilakku festival. The NDRF explained the ways to control the rush during the Makaravilakku festival. The NDRF is fully active and is working by dividing the force into three. They have also in communication with other departments in deciding day to day plans to be implemented at Sabarimala. They will sit with different departments under District Collector prior to the start of the Makaravilakku festival. The Health Department is active and is equipped with medicines and equipment. Forest Department, KSEB and other departments have also shared their report with the minister. KSRTC has said that 200 buses will do the service from Pamba alone during the Makaravilakku festival.

Travancore Devaswom Board President M Padmakumar has said that Board has been able to solve the issues at Sabarimala without any delay and any defect during the Mandala pilgrimage will be rectified at the earliest before the Makaravilakku festival starts here.

Principal Secretary K R Jyothilal, District Collector P B Nooh, Sabarimala ADM V R Premkumar, Sannidhanam special police officer G Jayadev, Pamba special police officer Karthikeya Gokulachandran, Devaswom Board Members K P Sankaradas, Adv. N Vijayakumar, Devaswom Commissioner N Vasu, Devaswom Executive officer D Sudheesh Kumar and the heads of other various departments were present during the meeting.

(PR-131)

New Hospital to be constructed at Nilakkal:

Devaswom Minister

In making the treatment facilities more, a hospital will be constructed at Nilakkal said Devaswom Minister Kadakampalli Surendran. This has been made after it was raised that a permanent facility for treatment here. The parking facilities will also be improved, said the minister.

Minister was on a visit to see the arrangements and to meet up with the various department heads before the Makaravilakku festival starts. He said that during the Mandala Festival Sabarimala has gone through a difficult time. Some people wanted to turn the temple premises a riot place. The government's intervention in making way for the devotees to worship had however brought back peace to the place. The floods before one and a

half-month before to the start of the pilgrimage had toppled all the plans and it is with no time that the facilities have been reinstated by the government. This shows how good is the government system.

The base camp has been moved from Pamba to Nilakkal and the facility to lay viri has been improved from 1000 to 6000 people at a time. The defects that existed in Pamba is been corrected. It is only with the consent of the Central Ministry that the removal of sand from Pamba can be done. and then only can a new life be given to the holy river. For this, the state government has some legal limitation.

Minister also said that certain section came against Sabarimala and they have started plotting false news against the temple. They have tried everything but proved unsuccessful. They then created a ruckus and incited violence. This has certainly put a dip to the flow of devotees. They even went spreading hatred against the temple and urged the devotees from other states to not to throw any money at the Bhandaram. In fear of more attacks, the government has to announce 144 in the place.

Minister also hoped that more devotees will come during the Makaravilakku festival since everything is under control. Facilities have been made in such scale to welcome any number of devotees to Sabarimala during the Makaravilakku festival.

(PR-132)

