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'Makara Vilakku Festival': Firefighters strengthen security

Sannidhanam Fire Force Special Officer MS Suvi said that security has been strengthened during the Makara Vilakku Festival. New fire units will be set up at Uppupara, Pullumedu, Kumali, Satram, Vandiperiyar, Paranthumpara, Panchalimedu, Panjipara, Ayyan Mala, Elavunkal, Atathodu, Laha and Vadasserikkara during the Makaravilakku festival. Each unit will have one vehicle and six employees. More safety equipment will arrive at the festival. Along with the Thiruvabharana procession, there will be a special team of six will accompany.

Sixty-six employees at Sannidhanam, Saramkutty, KSEB, Nadapanthal, Koprakkalam, Bhasmakulam, Malikappuram, Pandivathavalam and Sannidhanam are appointed to look after the fire security. Sixty-six employees will provide security at Pampa's seven points, the special officer said.

(PR-183)

KSEB to install 600 additional lights

KSEB Sannidhanam Assistant Engineer PR Rajeev said 600 additional lights will be installed from Pampa to Sannidhanam in connection with the Makara Vilakku Festival. More than 4,000 lights have been installed so far from Pampa to Sannidhanam this pilgrimage season. The LEDs, tubes and sodium lights are among the installed. More personnel will be assigned to work in connection with the Makara Vilakku. An officer will be appointed at all transformer points to ensure

power supply without interruption. More electric lights will be installed at Urakkuzhi and Helipad. "The senior officers of KSEB are turning into teams and evaluating the activities," the assistant engineer said.

(PR-184)

Duty Magistrate takes action against unhygienic shops

Action against 152 shops which have not been cleaned and maintained properly in Sabarimala since the opening of the Makara Vilakku Festival. The squad, led by Sannidhanam Duty Magistrate MT Anil Kumar, conducted the inspection. Rs 1,40,000 was fined from hotels and shops. The squad's investigation found hundreds of rotten vegetables, sprouted potatoes, and stale food items. The hotels which used to manipulate in quality and quantity at the queue complex were fined Rs 5,000. Three shops between Charalmedu and Sannidhanam were closed due to unhygienic conditions. "We only allow them to function again after they have been thoroughly cleaned," he said. The raids are conducted at Charalmedu Junction and Marakkootam-Saramkuthi Road. The squad comprises of Legal Metrology, Health, Revenue, Rationing and Excise officers.

(PR-185)

Fusion concert at Sabarimala

The RLV Baiju and the band sang along with the unexpectedly heavy rainfall to warm the minds of the devotees. They performed devotional songs on vocals and fusion in the Valiya Nadapanthal. Neelamperoor Sreeram was on Idaka, Haripad Devanarayanan on Mridangam, Vineeth on Nadaswaram, and Vinod Kadapra on Mridangam.

(PR-186)

Restriction to cooking in the traditional route to Sannidhanam

Restrictions were placed on cooking in the traditional route with gas cylinders. The restriction is to the Viris placed from Cheriya Vattam to Sannidhanam. The decision has come as part of strengthening security at Sabarimala as part of the Makara Vilakku festival. The duty magistrate said that the Forest, Fire Force, and Police authorities have been instructed to ensure the restriction. Over the past five days, a squad led by the Executive Magistrate has inspected various hotels and business establishments in Pampa and fined Rs 1,28,000 after it found irregularities. The fine has been imposed after it was noticed that the devotees were being exploited at the temporary Viri laying centers in Pampa. He also informed the contractor to remove the garments discarded by the devotees at

Pampa. The Department of Revenue, Civil Supplies, Legal, Health, and Legal Metrology was part of the inspection.

(PR-187)

Wild boar attack: Ayyappa devotees seek treatment

A devotee was injured in a wild boar attack at Pampa and sought treatment at the Government Hospital. Nine devotees were injured in the wild boar attack. After the initial treatment, those who needed more treatment were sent to the general hospital in Pathanamthitta. The injured include Ayyappa devotees from Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

(PR-188)



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