Joint inspection at the Makara Vilakku view points

A joint inspection with departments like Land Revenue, Police, Fire Rescue, Health, Forest, Irrigation, Water Authority, KSEB, Local Self Governance, Public Works (Rate / Building) and Travancore Devaswom Board will be conducted at the viewpoints where the devotees gather in large number to view the Makara Vilakku.

The Sabarimala Additional District Magistrate will conduct a joint examination with the various departments on January 12 to check the arrangements and risks. The inspection officers should arrive at the Sabarimala Additional District Magistrate’s Office (administrative office under the Travancore Devaswom Board at Nilakkal Base Camp) at 9 am on their official vehicle.

(CR-208)

Closing of Punyam Poonkavanam is on January 16th

The closing session of the Punyam Poonkavam sanitionan programme will be held on January 16 at 10 am at the Sri Ramasaketham Auditorium opposite Pampa Government Hospital. State Police Chief Loknath Bahra, IG P Vijayan, Additional District Magistrate of Sabarimala NSK Umesh, various department officials and community volunteers will also take part.

(PR-209)
Precaution taken for managing rush at Sabarimala during Makara Vilakku

The meeting of the heads of various departments at the Devaswom Guest House has decided to take necessary steps for the departments concerned to control the rush during the Makara Vilakku festival day. The arrangement of barricades and lighting systems will be completed as soon as possible. The ways at Sabarimala will be cleaned. A perfect control system will be put in place at Sopanam to avoid congestion to view the Makara Vilakku.

A fire inspection in several of the hotels in Sannidhanam found that gas cylinders were kept in excess in numbers. These hoteliers were told to move the extra cylinders to the gas house or to keep them safe in the open space behind the shop. The fire inspection will find a location that is fire hazard areas and will install an air dryer. In view of the congestion on 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th, the drinking water supply will be made more efficient. Devaswom Board will supply biscuits and drinking water to the devotees. The Excise Department has so far taken 85 cases under the Tobacco Control Act. The Department of Health has announced that it has stocked anti-venom drugs and rabies vaccines.

Executive Officer VS Rajendra Prasad, Special Officer Sujith Das, and Duty Magistrate Jayamohan attended the meeting.

(PR-210)

Barricade construction is in its final stages

Construction of the barricades by the Maramath department of the Devaswom Board nearing completion in Sannidhanam and Marakkottam. A rope will be used to prevent the devotees from entering at the left side of the Swami Ayyappan road. The barricade is being built on the steep slope of Swami Ayyappan Road. A temporary barricade has been made on either side of the road at Pandithavalam where a large section of devotees conglomerate to see the Makara Vilakku. The police have advised that the gate should be locked early so that pilgrims do not stumble upon the Makara Vilakku day above the multi-story building and donor house.

Barricades are also being made at the water tank, the vicinity of the Annadanama Mandapam, the darshan complex and the police VHF station. The barricade has been completed wherever required by police instructions. Devaswom Assistant Executive Engineer K Sunil Kumar said the barricade had been constructed as per the instruction of the police in all the steep slopes.

(PR-211)
**Makara Vilakku: RAF along with Police will set security at Sabarimala**

Rapid Action Force (RAF) in Sabarimala has taken steps to control the rush and provide security to the devotees along with the Police soon after the Makara Vilakku view. The RAF 105 Battalion from Coimbatore provides security at Sannidhanam. Deputy Commandant G Dinesh said that there are over 150 army personnel under his at Sabarimala.

RAF along with police had inspected the places at Pandithalavalam, Koprakkalam Malikapuram area and other places where a large section of devotees come together to view the Makara Vilakku. There are army personnel from other states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka to help devotees from neighboring states. They always search from atop the watchtowers the movements of Sabarimala. RAF is a part of the Poonam Poojaanam Project to keep Sabarimala clean every day.

(PR-212)