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Landslide risk: Entry to the Hilltop prohibited

District Disaster Management Authority chairman and district collector PB Nooh said that pilgrims have been banned from entering the hilltop at Pampa in view of the possibility of landslides. Devotees would largely climb to the hilltop to see the Makara Vilakku clearly. This enhances the chance of landslides, the collector informed.

The ban was based on the reports of Pathanamthitta District Police Chief G Jayadev and Sabarimala Additional District Magistrate NSK Umesh.

He also demanded the Devaswom Board to urgently set up barricades to prevent pilgrims from entering the hilltop. Sabarimala Additional District Magistrate will coordinate all related activities.

Pampa suffered major damage following the flood in August 2018. The base camp at Pampa was immediately moved to Nilakkal based on the possibility of landslides in the area. Last year too, the pilgrims were banned from accessing the hilltop to see the Makara Vilakku due to landslides.

(PR-213)

Thiruvabharana procession starts on January 13th

On the evening of Makara Sankrama, the jewels (Thiruvabharana) to be placed on the Sabarimala Ayyappa idol will be taken on January 13 from Pandalam to Sabarimala. The Makara Vilakku is on fifteen and the jewels are taken to the

temple in a sealed wooden box. Guru Swamy Kulathinal Gangadharan Pillai will lead the Thiruvabharana procession to Sabarimala on foot.

Pradeep Kumar Varma is representing Pandalam Valiyambhampuran P Rama Varmaraja this time by accompanying the procession. On January 13, at 4.30 am, the jewels will be brought out the Srampikal palace to the Valiyakkoyikkal Dharamsastha Temple. Devotees will have the opportunity of viewing the jewelry till 12 noon. After that, the rituals will be performed. At 12.55 am, the royal representative of the Pandalam family would leave the temple and travel in a Palanquin. One in the afternoon, the procession will start.

The group arrives at Ayiroor Puthiyakavu temple via Kulangada, Ullannur and Aranmula on the traditional route. On the second day, the procession will arrive at the Laha Forest Department inn via Perunad. The procession marches through the traditional forest route on the third day. From Plappally, the group will reach Sabarimala in the evening, passing the Attathode, Valiyanavattam and Cherianavattom. During the evening after the jewels are adorned the deeparadhana will take place and at the same time, the Makara Jyothi will appear at Ponnambalam.

The royal representative, accompanying the procession, will reach Pampa and offer blessings to the devotees. On the third day, after the ascending, King Sabarimala will witness the Kalabham at Sannidhanam and Guruthi at Malikappuram, and returns to the Pandalam with ornaments.

(PR-214)

Thiruvabharana Procession: A nodal officer was appointed for Coordination

The Thiruvalla Tahsildar K Sreekumar was responsible for coordinating with the various departments in connection with the Thiruvabharana procession. He was appointed by the District Collector PB Nooh. Representing the District Administration and the District Disaster Management Authority, the Junior Superintendent of the Collectorate S Sajeev, Ranni Deputy Tehsildar MK Ajitkumar, Senior Clerk of the Collectorate R Abhilash and Adoor Taluk Village Field Assistant Hariharan R Pillai were also appointed.

(PR-215)

Inspection of hotels and shops in Pampa; He was fined Rs 2.31 lakh

A team led by duty magistrates and executive magistrates in Pampa Triveni and KSRTC area hotels and at Sannidhanam has been fined Rs 2,31,000 for various violations. Inappropriate items were seized at Pampa's inspection. They seized rotten grapes, oranges, and vegetables and fined the vendors. They also banned the cooking of food in unhygienic conditions. Employees without a health card were

also found in the inspection. Legal action will be initiated against the serious lapses, said the duty magistrate. Inspections carried out in and around Pampa for the past three days have resulted in a fine of Rs 103000. They have also given the warning to provide clean food to pilgrims. The inspection was conducted under the guidance of Duty Magistrate VR Vinod and Executive Magistrate PR Shine at Pampa.

In Sannidhanam, under the leadership of a duty magistrate, inspected the shops and hotels in three squads. They also monitor whether excessive prices are charged and illegal activities are in progress. Between January 7 and 10, the squad at Sannidhanam fined 1,2,8000 from 21 shops for overcharging and other violations. The hotel which was located near the illegal Koprakala has been locked up by the duty magistrate. The inspection was conducted under the guidance of duty magistrate V. Jayamohan.

(PR-216)

Ayyappa devotees died

Lakshman Mahabaleshwar Naik (66) hailing from Uttara Kannada has died in Nilakkal on Saturday morning. The body of the deceased was taken to the Nilakkal PHC for further proceedings were taken. Jayaraman, 66, of Puthur, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, died at Pampa. The incident occurred on Saturday afternoon. The body was sent post-mortem and the procedure followed.

(PR-217)

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