

Thiruvananthapuram, Flood, Sabarimala, Niraputhari Festival, Pilgrims, Safety, Travancore Devaswom Board

Pilgrims may miss Niraputhari festival

Flooding Woes Force Travancore Devaswom Board To Block The Entry Of All Sabarimala Pilgrims At Pamba To Ensure Their Safety

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram: When Sabarimala temple opens for 'Niraputhari' festival, devotees will not be able to get darshan on Tuesday evening. Travancore Devaswom Board has asked all pilgrims to avoid their trek to the hill shrine since the water level of Pamba river is increasing steadily.

"With almost all dams in Pathanamthitta remaining open, water level in the Pamba is rising dangerously. Hence it will not be safe for pilgrims to cross the river and trek to the hill shrine. Hence, we took a decision to block the entry of devotees at Pamba," said TDB president A Padmakumar.

Since the river is overflowing, several shops and the mandapam at Pamba were severely damaged. Several construction activities at Pamba has been destroyed in flood. Both Pamba and Thriyeni are in spate and this has blocked the two bridges connecting Pamba to the hill shrine. Hence it will not be safe for pilgrims to cross the river now, he added.

If at all pilgrims are coming to reach the hill shrine, then they will be sent back from Pamba area. Necessary instructions have been given to the district administration and police, said the devaswom president.



Travancore Devaswom Board has asked all pilgrims to avoid trek to the hill shrine since the water level of Pamba river is increasing steadily

"Giving topmost priority to safety, we request devotees to avoid darshan for the next two days when the temple opens for Niraputhari festival. However, there will be no change in rituals and poojas as they will be performed as usual. But we are only restricting devotees this time," he said.

TDB has asked the district administration to take precautionary measures at Pamba to avoid crowding. They have

even asked the police to install barricades to manage crowds. Warning boards have been installed to inform devotees about the danger while crossing the river.

The temple will open at 5pm on Tuesday and Niraputhari festival will be performed on August 15 at 6am. The temple will close in the evening. For pujas in Chingam, the temple will open in the evening on August 16.

TWO SHUTTERS OF CHERUTHONY DAM CLOSED

Idukki: As water level in Idukki dam receded for the third consecutive day on Monday, government and KSEB's dam safety wing reduced the level of water being released from the dam and closed two shutters of Cheruthony dam in the evening. Water level in the dam at 7pm on Monday was 2,397.04ft, compared to 2,398.688ft on Sunday evening.

"Presently, 750 cumecs (cubic m/sec) is being released. Since water level in the reservoir has reached safe levels, we reduced the flow to 300 cumecs. Inflow to the dam is 590 cumecs and 750 cumecs is used for power generation. Rain in dam's catchment area is coming down," said KSEB executive engineer (dam safety) VS Balu. However, water level in Mattupetty dam has reached 1,599m and its total storage capacity