



SWAMI SARANAM

**TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
SABARIMALA**

PRESS RELEASE

Pamba to made Gateway- Devaswom Minister

Pamba would be made the entry to the Poonkavanam in Sabarimala, Minister for Devaswom, Cooperation and Tourism Kadakampally Surendran has said. Addressing reporters at Sabarimala, the Minister said that development works worth Rs.90 crore would be taken up under the Prasadam project, a component of Sabarimala Master Plan. The High Power Committee would supervise the implementation. Projects for changing the face of Sabarimala are being planned. A project for beautifying Sabarimala is being planned. A new scheme, Suchitwa Pamba is being planned for conserving holy river Pamba. A new waste management plant would be set up. As in the case of swimming pools, a shower facility would be provided for pilgrims before taking a dip in the Pamba. These have been planned to keep the river pollution free.

A new bridge would be constructed parallel to the Thriveni bridge. The Valiya Nadapanthal' at Sannidanam would be renovated. Seating arrangements would be made. Drinking water and coupons for making offerings would be distributed at the panthal. The new Aravana plant donated by entrepreneur would be commissioned soon. The cost has been pegged at Rs.4 crore. Work on the plant that would double the production, would be entrusted with the Kerala State Industrial Enterprises. A project for segregating plastic and bio-waste at Sabarimala is on the anvil. Green protocol would be implemented.

A holding tank incepted at Pamba with 600 lakh litre capacity has helped to prevent the flow of human excreta to the Pamba. The government was able to make the Mandalam festival an environment friendly festival. The system of counting money would be made more transparent. The festival could be completed without much complaints. Department coordination could be ensured for the conduct of the festival.

Preparations for the next Mandalam festival would commence soon after the Makara Vilakku festival. Consultations would begin by January and works would be taken up by February. A calendar would be prepared for executing the works. Pressure would be mounted on the Centre for providing more forest land for development works.