

CMs' meet to discuss Sabarimala projects



Temple income has fallen by Rs.15 crore this Mandalam season

Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) president Prayar Gopalakrishnan has said that a Pampa Sangamam to hold discussions with Chief Ministers of all southern States is proposed to be held for discussing projects connected with the development of the Sabarimala temple.

Talking to presspersons here on Sunday, he said that in spite of submitting a report on various development projects proposed at Sabarimala, the Central government was yet to respond. The projects included one to ensure drinking water supply to pilgrims by raising the height of the existing check dam to 2.5 metres.

Mr. Gopalakrishnan said that as of now there was no dispute between the TDB and the Forest Department over development projects for the Sabarimala temple. He said that pilgrims taking the Erumeli-Azhutha route to the temple faced the problem of drinking water and light along the route. He said that the income of Sabarimala temple during this year's Mandalam festival had fallen by over Rs.15 crore compared to last year.

Pilgrims' footfall may increase

The earnings, mostly offerings made by pilgrims, was Rs.103 crore till Saturday for this year's phase. It was expected that the flow of pilgrims would increase during the Makaravilakku season, he said.