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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

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No. 2363/04 - MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2023

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

Notification No. 1

PILGRIMAGES ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 175)

Sri Pada Pilgrimage Season - 2023/2024

IT is hereby notified for the information of the General Public that the aforementioned pilgrimage season will commence on 26th December, 2023 and end on 24th May, 2024.

The General Public is informed that the regulations published in the following *Gazette* notifications, in terms of the provisions of the Pilgrimages Ordinance, shall be in force within the duration of the pilgrimage season.

Government *Gazette* No. 9859 of 30th April, 1948
Government *Gazette* No. 10000 of 22nd July, 1949
Government *Gazette* No. 11255 of 07th February, 1958
Government *Gazette* No. 12508 of 07th July, 1961
Government *Gazette* No. 12947 of 02nd March, 1962
Government *Gazette* No. 2034/33 of 01st September, 2017

WASANTHA GUNARATHNA,
District Secretary/ Government Agent,
Ratnapura Administrative District.

At the District Secretariat,
Ratnapura.



SRI PADA PILGRIMAGE SEASON - 2023/2024

ATTENTION of the General Public is invited to the regulations relating to pilgrimages published in the *Gazettes* bearing No. 9859 of 30th April 1948, No.10000 of 22nd July, 1949, No. 11255 of 07th February, 1958, No. 12508 of 7th July, 1961, No. 12947 of 02nd March, 1962, No. 2034/33 of 01st September, 2017. I hereby notify the following particulars relating to those regulations.

01. Rest Rooms/ Ambalam

1.1 Rest rooms/Ambalam at Lihinihela, Palabaddala temple, Heramitipana, Andiyamalathenna, Warnagala, Seetangangula, Medahinna, Idikatupana shall be used as lodgings.

1.2 No temporary lodgings shall be prepared or maintained.

02. Construction of Buildings

No buildings or lodging or boutique, whether permanent or temporary, shall be constructed during the period from 26th December, 2023 to 24th May, 2024 by any person without my written permission or such permission obtained from any other authorized officer.

03. Beggars

Asking for or receiving alms by beggars and giving or distributing alms to beggars shall be avoided at any place within Sri Pada compound area or ambalam/rest room premises.

04. Bathing and Washing

4.1 Bathing or washing clothes shall be avoided at places except the safe places already identified and declared by the Department of Forest, Central Environment Authority and Local Government Authorities.

4.2 Private ventures which are intended to facilitate for bathing and washing clothes shall duly obtain prior written permission from the Department of Forest, Local Government Authority and Central Environment Authority.

05. Vehicles/ Routes

5.1 No person shall park or enter vehicles at places except the places reserved by Pradeshiya Sabha or respective Local Government Authority.

5.2 The main routes fixed for pilgrimage are Raja Mawatha (Palabaddala route), Hatton Nallathanniya route and Kuruwita Erathna route.

06. Environment and Sanitation

6.1 Polythene and plastic shall not be discarded improperly on pilgrims' route or within Sri Pada Compound area or around rest rooms or to the environment.

6.2 No person shall place bonfire and set fire which may cause any conflagration in Sri Pada Site, by any reason.

6.3 Sanitation and garbage disposal during pilgrimage season shall be facilitated by the Local Government Authorities and Provincial Health Services Directorate.

6.4 The responsibility of disinfection of the railings along the route shall be assigned to the Local Government Authorities.

07. Medical Facilities

Prior written permission of Director of Provincial Health Services and respective Local Government Authority shall be obtained for the medical treatment/ first-aid centres which are to be undertaken by private ventures.

08. Marketing and alms-halls

- 8.1 Itinerant selling shall not be allowed within Sri Pada Compound area and rest room premises and along the route.
- 8.2 Selling of Pooja items, Pooja trays, food items or other commodities shall not be allowed at any place except the places where permission was granted by me or by any other authorized officer.
- 8.3 Carrying along the pilgrims' route or storing, sale or purchase at boutiques and consuming any liquor, cigarettes, or any other narcotic shall strictly be prohibited.
- 8.4 No person shall establish, maintain any permanent or temporary boutique or do business therein on either side of access roads except at the places already allowed.
- 8.5 Wastebaskets shall be placed in every boutique and building and all garbage shall be deposited therein.
- 8.6 All Processed foods for sale shall be kept with covered so as to protect them from flies.
- 8.7 Alms-halls can be undertaken in conformity to the prevailing health condition and a prior written permission from me or from authorized officer shall be obtained for such purpose.

09. Measures to be taken in the case of Pandemic Situation

Pilgrims shall adhere to proper health guidelines issued from time to time by the Director General of Health, under pandemic situations prevailing in the country.

10. Pilgrims shall not be permitted to stay in the Sri Pada Compound and shall leave once worshipped.

WASANTHA GUNARATHNA,
District Secretariat/ Government Agent,
Ratnapura Administrative District.

At the District Secretariat,
Ratnapura.
on the 13th day of December, 2023.

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