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Vijayawada Police commissioner Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao assures devotees post lapses on first day of Dasara celebrations

Dated: - 01st October 2019 (Tuesday)

E-Paper

VIJAYAWADA: Unlike the minor hiccups in arrangements on the first day of Dasara celebrations, Monday witnessed the smooth and hassle-free proceedings for the devotees visiting the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam or popularly known as Kanaka Durga temple atop Indrakeeladri. After reviewing the preparations, temple executive officer MV Suresh Babu and city Commissioner of Police (CP) Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao admitted there was confusion and lack of coordination between the departments on Sunday as devotees thronged the temple in huge numbers.

“We identified lapses in the preparations and rectified it. Only special darsanam ticket holders will be allowed in the queue line. Yesterday (on Sunday), many pilgrims without purchasing the tickets entered the Rs 300 ticket queue line. This created confusion and problems in controlling the crowd,” the officials said.



Stating that around 1.2 lakh devotees had the deity’s darshan on the first day of Dasara, the officials said the turnout at the temple till Monday afternoon was low, and expressed confidence that families would throng during the evening and night hours.

Meanwhile, following complaints from devotees about the laddu and pulihora prasadam being prepared in unhygienic conditions, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) officials raided the kitchen where they were being made in the afternoon.

The raiding team noticed that workers were not wearing hand gloves, head masks and maintained low sanitation. “We are going to deploy a team of FSSAI officials here at the temple to take stock of the situation every four hours,” the officials added.

Goddess to take Sri Gayatri Devi avatar

On the third day of Dasara festivities, the presiding deity atop Indrakeeladri will take the Sri Gayatri Devi avatar. The goddess, with her magical powers, will be seated in a lotus with pancha mukhi (five faces) representing five pranas: prana, apana, vyana, udana and samana.



Single-use plastic: India's food regulator set to review packaging guidelines

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India's food regulator the food safety and standards authority of India plans to review packaging guidelines to help food and beverage companies migrate to single-use plastic alternatives. These revised regulations will be based on feedback from recent meetings with the industry.

Sources told CNBC-TV18 that the FSSAI will explore allowing alternative forms of packaging for certain foods. For instance, the regulator may allow the use of bamboo and glass as packaging for certain food products. "There were certain forms of packaging which were prohibited in the past. These will now be allowed if there is no food safety issue," said a food safety official in the know of the developments.



While the industry has been suggesting the use of compostable plastic as an alternate form of packaging, the regulator is of the view that there are certain challenges. "Compostable plastic needs to be segregated and recycled in a certain environment. There needs to be a mechanism in place before it is included in the packaging regulations," said a food safety official. Sources say that these are some reasons why the authority will not allow the use of compostable plastic just yet.

These changes will reflect as amendments to the packaging norms that the FSSAI notified in January 2019. The regulation defines standards for different materials used for packaging of food products. For instance, these regulations prohibit the use of newspaper and other such materials for packing or wrapping of food articles and includes respective Indian standard for printing inks for use on food packages.

In a response to CNBC-TV18, the FSSAI said that it is participating in 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign through various programs. They are also looking into regulations to make packaging more environment friendly.