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**Title :**

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**Location :**

**Article Date : 11/19/2011**

# **'SABARI STATUS SHOULD BE RAISED'**

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THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
, NOV. 18**

The hill shrine should be raised to the status of a national pilgrimage centre and Pampa should be developed on the lines of Katwa near the famous Vaishnodevi temple in Jammu and Kashmir, according to the BJP national spokesperson, Mr Prakash Javedkar.

"I will take up the matter with Central government. Also the party will introduce a 'calling attention' in Parliament on the safety and security of major pilgrim centres, including Sabarimala. The centre and the state should jointly give shape to a customised package to ensure safety," Mr Javedkar, who leads a five-member party team to visit and study the problems faced by devotees, said.

He expressed concern over the poor sanitation facilities at *Sannidanam* and the Pampa. "I was shocked to see sewage pumped into the Pampa river and devotees bathing and drinking water from the river," he added.