



Online booking for darshan a huge hit

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KOCHI: A week after its launch, the Kerala Police initiative - www.sabarimala.keralapolice.gov.in - to promote online booking for darshan at Sabarimala has been getting more and more popular among the devotees.

As per the latest statistics, so far the portal has got more than four lakh hits. Close to two lakh devotees have already registered darshan through the portal.

With more hits everyday and heavy load, the State IT Mission has given one more server to the police computer centre to manage the response. ♦ "The portal has registered 1,85,000 registrations till Wednesday 5 pm and is sure to cross two lakh by tonight. There were more than three lakh direct hits on the site and about 1.5 lakh hits from others sites where a link is tagged," said sources.

The computer centre has also been getting enquiries from across the country, mostly from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, on the method of booking. A devotee can book darshan starting from one day after the date of booking. They will be given specific timing between 5 am and 10 pm. No token will be given for the time slot from 1 pm to 3 pm. As of now 16,000 devotees can book for darshan per day. There won't be any online booking during the Makaravilakku season from January 7-15, 2012. The main advantage of online booking is that the devotees won't have to stand in queue anywhere other than at Sannidhanam.

"There is heavy response from devotees. Based on the response, we have brought in one more server. So far more than 1.65 lakh people have used the system for darshan registration for days till January 20, 2012. There will be a short break for online booking during Makaravilakku season, however the registration will continue after that," said ADGP P Chandrasekharan .