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HC BLASTS KERALA GOVT OVER POLICE ACTION AT SABARIMALA

The Kerala HC on Monday summoned state Advocate General CP Sudhakara Prasad over police excesses in the hill-top temple

STAY IN YOUR BARRACKS, HC TELLS POLICE

Lambasting the state govt for the police excess in Sabarimala, the High Court said the police should remain in their barracks instead of being in places meant for pilgrims. Around 70 persons were arrested on Sunday night as they were chanting prayers at the 'Nadapanthal' area of Sannidhanam (temple complex), where Section 144 was imposed

COURT QUESTIONS COPS' BACKGROUND

The high court warned the state government against resorting to police excesses under the guise of implementing the September 28 SC order allowing women of all ages to enter temple
It also sought the details of the police officials deployed at the temple and their experience in Sabarimala pilgrim management

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Meet soon to discuss student vehicle ban

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"RECENTLY we attended an event with the minister and we were surprised to see the number of vehicles parked on the premises as well as outside. We enquired with the college and were told that all vehicles belong to students," said a senior official.

"After coming back from the event, we discussed some steps which the department could take up for improvement of the system and the minister mentioned about the sheer number of vehicles and asked us to arrange for a meeting with heads of institutions to discuss a ban on the same," the official said.

On the possibility of college managements demanding more money for providing transportation, minister G T Devegowda said most of the bikes and cars parked on college campuses were expensive ones. "Each student must be spending at least ₹5,000 to maintain them. When this is the case, why can't they pay transportation fees charged by colleges?" he asked before going on to say that students must consider not using their vehicles as their contribution to the fight against pollution. "I will try and convince college managements to charge a nominal fee towards transportation provided by them," he said.

Govt mulling banning students from bringing vehicles to colleges

RASHMI BELUR @Bengaluru

STUDENTS in colleges across the state could soon be asked to leave their vehicles at home. The state government is considering a proposal banning students from bringing their vehicles to college campuses in order to promote public transport.

The proposal, which will be discussed by Higher Education Minister G T Devegowda with college managements soon, also seeks to ad-

dress increasing levels of pollution and accident rates. The meeting will be held with the Vice Chancellors of all state universities, representatives from private and deemed to be universities and also representatives of private professional college managements.

Speaking to *Express*, G T Devegowda said there were other alternatives for students. "Students can use public trans-

port, college buses and other means. In a city like Bengaluru, now we have metro connectivity as well. There is a need to take such measures before pollution levels worsen."

According to sources from the higher education department, the proposal was mooted after officials found thousands of vehicles parked on the premises of various higher education institutions.



Plans under discussion

- Asking colleges not to provide parking space for students in campus
- Making public transport or college transportation compulsory
- Banning students from bringing private vehicles to campuses
- Making students submit undertaking during admission that they will not bring private vehicles to campuses
- Giving one credit for students who keep their vehicle away from campuses
- Surrendering their driving licence during admission