

Public Works (1899) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No: 251 Ry.

DATED

2^d March 1899

[Despatch Abstract.]

Brahmotsavam festival of Sri
Kalhastri Easwaraswami.

Coming to the Manager, Ech, Pres of
the L.P. Dept ordering the publication of a
Notice prohibiting pilgrimages to the en-
suing — at Kalahastri from 18/3 to 18/3/98
& the sale of tickets to certain stations to
persons intending to attend the festival.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Recd 24. 2. 99

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FEBRUARY.

Ordering the publication, in the Fort St. George and all District Gazettes, of a notification prohibiting pilgrimage to the ensuing —, at Kalahasti in the North Arcot district from 1st to 18th March 1899 and the sale of railway tickets to certain stations to persons intending to attend the festival.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

From J. K. BATTEN, Esq., Acting Collector and District Magistrate, North Arcot, to the Plague Commissioner, Madras (through the Sanitary Commissioner), dated Chittoor, 3rd February 1899, No. 421 P.

I have the honour to report that the Mahasivaratri festival otherwise known as the Brahmotsavam festival of Sri Kalahasti Easwara Swami is to be held at Kalahasti between the 5th March 1899 and 16th March 1899, both days inclusive. The important day of the festival is the Sivaratri day falling on the 10th March. This festival is largely attended by pilgrims from all parts of the Madras Presidency and especially from the districts of Bellary, Anantapur, Kurnool, Cuddapah, and from the Mysore Province. It is therefore necessary to prohibit the attendance of pilgrims during the said festival, and some days before and after it. A draft notification and the statement in the prescribed form is herewith submitted for approval and publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

2. A cordon of police and salt peons will be placed round the town of Kalahasti and pilgrims attending in contravention of the prohibition will be turned back.

3. The President of the Ránipéttai Taluk Board has already been requested to make the necessary sanitary arrangements during the festival.

ENCLOSURE.

Name of festival or fair.	Place where held.	Distance to the nearest railway station.	Date of commencement and termination of festival or fair.	Average attendance during the past three years.	Number of people expected from plague-infected parts.	Remarks.
Mahasivaratri or Brahmotsavam of Kalahasti Easwara, Kalahasti.	Town of Kalahasti.	One and half miles from the Kalahasti Railway Station.	Commences on the 5th and closes on the 16th March 1899.	27,000	5,000	Pilgrims from Hyderabad and Bombay, &c., I am informed, rarely, if ever, attend. Bellary, Kurnool, Anantapur furnish a fair number. People from Salem and from the Mysore province are reported to attend the festival yearly. Of course people from the several taluks of the district including Vellore also attend.

No. 459-S.

Forwarded.

(Signed) W. G. KING, Lieut.-Col., I.M.S.,
Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

8th February 1899.

To the Plague Commissioner, Madras.

Ref. on Cur. No. 1786.

Submitted to Government with the recommendation that the draft notification as amended may be approved and ordered to be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and that the Government of India may be addressed to prohibit the issue of railway tickets in the Province of Mysore.

2. The arrangements referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Collector's letter for the enforcement of the prohibition are approved.

3. As it is not certain with what stringency the prohibition against the selling of tickets will be enforced, the Collector will be requested to depute a hospital assistant to Kalahasti station to examine all passengers on arrival.

(Signed) L. E. BUCKLEY,
Plague Commissioner.

12th February 1899.

ORDER—No. 262 P., dated 20th February 1899.

The Plague Commissioner's recommendations are approved and the following notification will be published in the *Fort Saint George* and all District Gazettes:—

NOTIFICATION.

Whereas the Governor of Fort St. George in Council is satisfied that there is danger of an outbreak of plague at the town of Kalahasti in the North Arcot district if pilgrims are permitted to assemble in that town on the occasion of the ensuing Brahmotsavam festival of Sri Kalahasti Easwara Swami otherwise known as Mahasivarathri festival:

In exercise of the powers delegated to him under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, His Excellency the Governor of Fort St. George in Council is pleased to prohibit pilgrimage to Kalahasti from the 1st to 18th March 1899 (both days inclusive), and to direct that between the said dates no tickets to travel by rail to the stations of Gudur, Vendodu, Venkatagiri, Yellakaru, Kalahasti, Yerpedu, Renigunta, Tirupati East, Tirupati West and Chandrigiri on the South Indian Railway and to the stations of Poddapadu, Mamanduru, Renigunta, Pudi, Taduku, Pattur, Vepagunta and Nagari stations on the Madras Railway shall be issued at any railway station within the districts of Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur, Cuddapah, North Arcot and Salem to any person intending or believed to be intending to go on a pilgrimage to Kalahasti. All such persons proceeding to Kalahasti in contravention of this notification will be turned back.

2. The Mysore Government will be requested to notify that, in consequence of danger of plague, pilgrimage to Kalahasti in the North Arcot district, from the 1st to 18th proximo, on the occasion of the ensuing Brahmotsavam festival of Sri Kalahasti Easwara Swami, otherwise known as the Mahasivarathri festival, has been prohibited under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.

3. The Agents and Managers of the Madras, South Indian, and Southern Mahratta Railways are requested to instruct Stationmasters about the prohibition of the issue of railway tickets ordered by the notification.

4. The Government of India will be addressed to prohibit the sale of tickets to pilgrims from the Mysore State.

(True Extract.)

A. C. G. G. G. G.
for Secretary to Government.

To the Plague Commissioner.
 „ the Collector of North Arcot (A—L).
 „ all other Collectors (A).
 „ the Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue.
 „ the Inspector-General of Police.
 „ the Sanitary Commissioner.
 „ the Surgeon-General.
 „ the Public Works Department (Railway Branch).
 „ the Agent and Manager, Madras Railway.
 „ „ Southern Mahratta Railway.
 „ „ South Indian Railway.
 „ Mysore Government with Covering Letter.
 Gazette.

18/
No. 251 Dated 2/3/99
Communicated to the
Manager ECR for information.

Dispatched on 3/3/99

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B.
to DR

2. The Manager ECR
u AM Mysore
u Cons. Engrs. for R.