115

M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	115	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	26. Jan	1874 ~~196~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 219. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th December 1873, No. 2,570A :—

Read the following letter from G. D. LEMAN, Esq., Collector of the Kistna District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 21st November 1873, No. 1,756 :—

I HAVE the honour to report that the Pushkaram festival held in this year in this district passed off without any *contretemps*.

2. The Pushkaram (signifying 12) is a festival recurring at each of the twelve chief rivers of India once in twelve years.

3. Its occurrence is governed by the position of the star Jupiter, supposed to be the chief of all stars; when in the sign of Virgo, as in this year, the Kistna river is the Pushkaram river; when in Leo, as in last year, the Godavery; when in Cancer, the Jumna, and so on, and to whichever river the Pushkaram belongs, to that he is supposed to be nearest, and hence most likely to hear his devotees.

4. The ceremony simply consists in bathing, whereby all sin is washed away, making promises of a better life, offering funeral offerings to the ancestors of the devotee, and in giving charity to brahmins.

5. The feast lasted from the 13th to 25th October, twelve days, and notwithstanding that there was much rain during the time and that cholera had appeared in Bapatla and Repalli Taluqs, I am glad to be able to report that there was no disease; and the people suffered from nothing worse than ordinary trifling ailments. Their behaviour too was exemplary, no crime of any sort was reported.

6. The Local Fund Board spent Rupees 300 for the purpose of making the people as comfortable as possible at Bezwada and Kallépilli, the two places to which they most resorted. Latrines and sleeping sheds were erected, and a party of sweepers entertained in each place, and at Bezwada boatmen were stationed off the bathing place in their boats to pick up people who might be washed off their legs.

7. Mr. Gibson reports that looking into one of the "peep shows" he found some of the owner's photographs of a prurient nature; and one so disgusting that he destroyed it at once. I was not myself aware that this kind of exhibition was to be found in India; perhaps Government will choose to give publicity to the fact that they exist, that they may be put in the category with obscene books. They do more harm in being within the comprehension of every body and not only of those who can read.

8. It is estimated that about 60,000 people attended the festival at Bezwada, and half that number at Kallépilli; but there seems to be doubt whether this or next year, when Jupiter will again be in Virgo, is the correct year for the Kistna; this, combined with the very wet weather, probably kept many people away.

9. The Cavery is the river at which the Pushkaram festival next occurs.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th January 1874.

No. 220. ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1874, No. 115.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED. It is observed that obscene pictures and photographs are always confiscated and destroyed, when discovered, at the Sea Customs Houses of British India. The same course, it is presumed, is pursued at the Land Frontiers, separating British territory from French; but the attention of the authorities concerned should be called anew to the matter. If, on the other hand, the Collector has reason to suppose that these photographs are made up in the country, he will endeavour to get evidence of the fact and put the case into the hands of the Police.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public, etc., Departments.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Govt. of 1874 Mdras.

REVENUE.

To

The Board of Revenue,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated January 26th.

Read.

Encl.

G. O., 26th January 1874, No. 115.

JANUARY

Nos. 219-220.

Pushkaram festival, held in Kistna District.—Recording Board's Proceedings regarding the — with instructions relative to obscene pictures and photographs.

115 X 3

No. 2,570A.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th December 1873.

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9. The Cavery is the river at which the Pushkaram festival next occurs.

Submitted for the information of Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

H Stokes

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of the Kistna District.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

Rev: 1874 Dept.

1873.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

No. 15.

PROCEEDINGS, 12TH DECEMBER 1873, No. 2,570A.

Dup. 6 Jan. 74.

Encl.

G.O. No. 115 - 26 Jany/74

Received 7 January 1874

DECEMBER.

No. 2,570A.

Pushkaram festival—held in Kistna District in current year.—Collector's report on—submitted to Government.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Kistna, dated 3rd instant, forwarding a report on the Pushkaram festival held in that district in current year:—

Recorded:—It is ordered that the Collector's report be printed and a copy supplied to each Member of the Board.

Ordered, that the Collector's report be printed and a copy supplied to each Member of the Board.

Ordered, that the Collector's report be printed, as proposed at the Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd instant, and that a copy be supplied to each Member of the Board.

Ordered, that the Collector's report be printed, as proposed at the Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd instant, and that a copy be supplied to each Member of the Board. 219-220.

C. to Jany/74 R 28.