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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

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PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

THE PILGRIMAGES ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 175)

The Esala Festival of Saparagamuwa Maha Saman Devalaya - 2026

I hereby notify to the General public that the aforesaid Festival will commence on the **13th July 2026** and conclude on **30th July 2026**.

The Attention of the General public is here by drawn to the regulations published in the following *Gazette* Notifications, issued in terms of the provisions of the Pilgrimages Ordinance, which shall remain in force during the period of the festival.

Gazette No. 2151/21 dated 26th November 2019

Gazette No. 2184/49 dated 17th July 2020

Gazette No. 2243/08 dated 30th August 2021

Gazette No. 2293/45 dated 18th August 2022

Gazette No. 2338/60 dated 30th June 2023

Gazette No. 2390/03 dated 24th June 2024

Gazette No. 2449/13 dated 12th August 2025.

M. G. LALITH ANANDA,

District Secretary/Government Agent and
the Officer in Charge of the Esala Festival Camp at the
Saparagamuwa Maha Saman Devalaya.

District Secretariat, Ratnapura,
08th June 2026.



The Esala Festival of Sagaragamuwa Maha Saman Devalaya - 2026

The Attention of the General public is drawn to the regulations relating to the Pilgrims Published in the *Gazette* No. 2151/21 dated 26th November 2019, *Gazette* No. 2184/49 dated 17th July 2020, *Gazette* No. 2243/08 dated 30th August 2021, *Gazette* No. 2293/45 dated 18th August 2022, *Gazette* No. 2338/60 dated 30th June 2023, *Gazette* No. 2390/03 dated 24th June 2024, *Gazette* No. 2449/13 dated 12th August 2025. I hereby notify the following particulars relating to the said regulations.

1. Duration of conducting the Perahera -

- It is hereby notified that the Esala Festival of Sagaragamu Maha Saman Devalaya will commence on 13th July 2026 and conclude with the Water Cutting Ceremony and Day Procession on 30th July 2026.

* All Night Pirith Chanting Ceremony	13.07.2026
* Alms Giving Ceremony for Maha Sangha	14.07.2026
* Kap Planting Ceremony	15.07.2026
* Auction of Stalls	15.07.2026
* Kumbal Perahera	15.07.2026 to 19.07.2026
* Street Parade of the Perahera	20.07.2026 to 24.07.2026
* Randoli Perahera	25.07.2026 to 29.07.2026
* Water Cutting Ceremony	30.07.2026

2. Camp Area -

- The area in which the Esala Festival is to be conducted shall be bounded to the North by the Public residential lands of Paraveni Officers, the vehicle parking area, the cement channel demarcating the sales stalls area, and the entrance road to the vehicle park; to the South by Thennagewaththa and the 'Kalu' River, to the East by Ratnapura- Panadura Road; and to the West by Maha Uyanwaththa belonging the the Devalaya.

3. Vehicles -

- 3.1 No vehicle, including motor vehicles, bicycles, or carts, shall enter or be parked in any place or within the festival premises, except in areas reserved for parking, without my permission or the permission of an authorized officer.
- 3.2 The entry of vehicles into the Devalaya premises through the gateway erected facing the Rathnapura - Panadura Main Road is strictly prohibited.

4. Construction of Buildings -

- 4.1 No person shall, during the period from 13th July 2026 to 30th July 2026, construct or erect any shelter or structure, whether temporary or permanent, or make any addition to an existing building within the camp area, without my written permission or the written permission of an authorized officer.
- 4.2 However, entry into any land or place situated within the camp area shall be permitted for the purpose of implementing any regulation imposed by me or by any authorized officer, and the erection of any post, structure, or building shall be permitted for the purpose of displaying any notice or signboard within the camp area.

5. Offering Puja for the Perahera -

- 5.1 Pausing the Perahera on the way for the offering of puja to the Water Cutting Perahera shall be permitted.

6. Health

- 6.1. No person who is suffering from any contagious or infectious disease shall enter the camp area. All persons shall strictly comply with the health instructions currently in force in the country.

7. Trade

- 7.1. No person shall, within the festival premises, sell lotteries or flags, or collect contributions for any purpose without my permission or the permission of an authorized officer. The sale and consumption of tobacco products and all kind of drugs are strictly prohibited within the premises and the Devalaya boundary during the period of the Perahera.
- 7.2. Stalls currently selling flowers and other puja items within the camp area and on both sides of the road commencing near Kotambe up to the entrance to Ketaliyanpalla shall strictly adhere to the health guidelines prevailing in the country during the Perahera season.
- 7.3. No person shall, within the sacred area, erect or maintain any stall or sell any goods, except at stalls already established on both sides of the entrance road to the camp area for the sale of flowers and puja items.
- 7.4. No mobile trading shall be carried out within the camp area after 7.00 p.m.
- 7.5. Each building and stall shall be placed with a garbage container, and all garbage shall be disposed of in such containers.
- 7.6. All processed food items offered for sale shall be kept in covered containers so as to protect them from flies.

8. Environment

- 8.1. No person shall bring into or dispose of plastic bottles, shopping bags, lunch sheets, or similar items within the camp area.
- 8.2. Plastic waste, lunch sheets, and polyethene brought into the camp area shall be disposed of only in the designated garbage containers.
- 8.3. Thorough attention shall be given to the above requirements in order to maintain the camp area as a plastic-free area.

9. Beggars

- No person shall beg for or solicit alms, or give or distribute money or any other items within the camp area, except at places designated for such purpose outside the sacred area.

M. G. LALITH ANANDA,
District Secretary/Government Agent and
the Officer in Charge of the Esala Festival Camp at the
Saparagamuwa Maha Saman Devalaya.

District Secretariat, Ratnapura,
08th June 2026.

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