



A Devastating Firecracker Explosion: A Deep Dive into The Kasaragod Temple Tragedy

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This report is dedicated to the memory of those who lost their lives in the *Kasaragod Temple Tragedy*. It is my sincere hope that this work contributes meaningfully to a safer and more resilient future for all of India.



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Report on

**A Devastating Firecracker Explosion: A Deep Dive
into the Kasaragod Temple Tragedy**

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CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

On October 29, 2024, a tragic firecracker explosion at the Anjootambalam Veerakavu temple in Kerala's Kasaragod district transformed a festive religious gathering into a horrific disaster, leaving over 150 people injured and causing extensive damage to the temple premises and surrounding area (Indian Express, 2024). This event, which occurred during a prominent local festival, disrupted the celebratory atmosphere with a sudden and devastating blast, triggering widespread panic and chaos among the assembled crowd. Initial reports indicate that a chain reaction set off multiple firecracker explosions, contributing to the severity of injuries and property damage witnessed on that fateful night (Hindustan Times, 2024).

The Kasaragod temple tragedy is not an isolated incident but part of a broader pattern of accidents related to fireworks in densely populated public gatherings, particularly during religious events across Kerala and other states in India (Onmanorama, 2024). The risks associated with improper storage, handling, and display of fireworks, combined with insufficient regulatory oversight, underscore systemic flaws in event safety protocols. This tragic explosion therefore not only reflects the immediate repercussions of inadequate safety measures but also serves as a call to action for more stringent regulations and comprehensive safety training to safeguard public events. The firecracker explosion at the Kasaragod temple highlights the urgent need for stricter safety regulations and improved emergency response protocols in the handling of fireworks during religious festivals.

2. Incident Overview

On the night of October 29, 2024, a catastrophic firecracker explosion occurred during the annual religious festival at the Anjootambalam Veerakavu temple in Kasaragod district, Kerala, India. The explosion, which took place around 9:30 PM local time, was a result of a chain reaction set off during a scheduled fireworks display, a central feature of the temple's festivities. The temple, located in the heart of Kasaragod, is an important spiritual site for the local community, often

drawing large crowds for its annual celebrations. On this particular evening, a crowd of thousands gathered to witness the elaborate pyrotechnic display, unaware that the event would soon turn tragic (Indian Express, 2024).

Eyewitness accounts from the scene paint a harrowing picture of the disaster. Witnesses described hearing a loud bang, followed by a series of rapid explosions that sent debris and shrapnel flying in all directions. Panic ensued as the initial blast triggered multiple subsequent explosions, with people scrambling to escape the area engulfed in smoke and flames. One eyewitness recounted how the blast seemed to come out of nowhere, with the fireworks igniting uncontrollably, causing widespread destruction (Hindustan Times, 2024). Many onlookers were unable to escape the blast radius in time, resulting in severe injuries and a chaotic scene of destruction.

Initial reports indicated that more than 150 people were injured, with many suffering severe burns and other life-threatening injuries. Medical teams were quickly dispatched to treat the wounded, with several critically injured individuals transferred to nearby hospitals (Indian Express, 2024). Among the injured, approximately 80% sustained burns, many of which were classified as deep, life-altering injuries (Hindustan Times, 2024). Additionally, the explosion caused extensive damage to the temple itself, with significant portions of the building and surrounding structures either severely damaged or destroyed. The financial costs of repairs and compensation for affected individuals were projected to be substantial, and the emotional toll on the community was equally devastating.

The explosion raised immediate concerns about the safety protocols in place for the fireworks display and led to questions about the regulatory oversight of such events in the region. The incident prompted local authorities to initiate an inquiry into the cause of the explosion, and multiple arrests were made in connection with the event's organization, with charges of negligence and criminal misconduct being filed (Onmanorama, 2024).

3.The Impact of the Explosion

The firecracker explosion at the Anjootambalam Veerakavu temple in Kasaragod on October 29, 2024, resulted in severe and far-reaching consequences, both immediate and long-term. The number of casualties and injuries from the explosion was staggering. Over 150 individuals were reported injured, with at least nine critically injured, many suffering from severe burns, and some in life-threatening conditions (Indian Express, 2024). The explosion also caused significant psychological trauma among survivors and witnesses. Many individuals who were present at the event were left deeply shaken by the horrific scene, and the emotional toll on the community has been profound. This tragic incident has left scars not only in the physical sense but also in the mental and emotional well-being of those who experienced it first-hand.

3.1 Casualties and Injuries

Among the 150+ injured, approximately 80% sustained burns, with some suffering burns over most of their bodies. Several of the injuries were critical, requiring immediate medical intervention. Local hospitals were quickly overwhelmed with the influx of patients, and medical personnel worked around the clock to provide care (Hindustan Times, 2024). In addition to burn injuries, many victims also suffered from blunt force trauma, as the force of the explosion propelled debris into the crowd. The sheer number of injuries, combined with the severity of the burns, led to concerns about long-term rehabilitation and recovery for the victims.

3.2 Extent of Property Damage

The explosion caused significant property damage, particularly to the temple structure and nearby properties. The main hall of the temple was severely damaged, and the surrounding buildings, including homes and small shops, also suffered extensive destruction. Local authorities have initiated assessments of the damage, which are expected to run into millions of rupees. The economic cost of repairs, along with compensation for victims, is anticipated to be substantial. Some reports indicated that the temple itself would require extensive reconstruction, which could take months or even years to complete (Onmanorama, 2024). This destruction extends beyond physical infrastructure to include the disruption of local businesses and livelihoods, particularly for those whose properties were damaged by the explosion.

3.3 Psychological Impact on the Community

Beyond the physical toll, the psychological impact on the community has been significant. Many individuals who witnessed the explosion or were affected by the tragedy have reported experiencing symptoms of trauma, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The nature of the explosion—sudden, violent, and destructive—has left an indelible mark on the collective psyche of the community. Survivors and their families are grappling with the emotional aftermath of losing loved ones or witnessing the devastation. Mental health professionals have been called upon to provide counseling and support to the affected individuals, and efforts to rebuild the community's emotional well-being are expected to continue long after the physical recovery (Hindustan Times, 2024).

3.4 Economic Implications

The economic implications of the explosion are considerable. In addition to the costs of medical care and rehabilitation for the injured, there are also substantial financial costs associated with rebuilding the temple and the surrounding infrastructure. Local businesses that were affected by the explosion may face significant losses due to the destruction of property and the economic disruption caused by the event. Compensation for victims, including medical expenses, loss of income, and psychological support, is expected to place a heavy financial burden on both the local government and the temple committee (Onmanorama, 2024). Furthermore, the explosion has likely caused a loss of tourism revenue, as the temple and its annual festival were major attractions for visitors, both from within Kerala and beyond.

Overall, the Kasaragod temple tragedy has left the community grappling with a range of consequences, from physical and psychological damage to significant economic challenges. The recovery from such a devastating event will require considerable time, resources, and coordinated efforts from both local authorities and national organizations.

CHAPTER-II

Potential Causes and Contributing Factors

2.1 Overview of Causes

The catastrophic firecracker explosion at the Anjootambalam Veerakavu temple in Kasaragod on October 29, 2024, resulted in severe casualties and extensive property damage. While the exact cause of the explosion is still under investigation, several potential factors have emerged as contributing elements to this tragic incident. These factors include improper handling and storage of fireworks, a lack of safety protocols and emergency response plans, weak enforcement of safety regulations, and human error and negligence. These elements, when combined, created a perfect storm of risk, exacerbating the scale and severity of the disaster.

2.2 Improper Handling and Storage of Fireworks

One of the primary contributing factors to the explosion was the improper handling and storage of fireworks. Fireworks, especially in large quantities, are inherently dangerous materials that require meticulous care in storage and handling. Preliminary reports suggest that the fireworks were stored improperly, possibly in unsuitable or unsafe conditions that facilitated an accidental ignition. Fireworks should be stored in cool, dry, and well-ventilated areas, away from flammable materials and crowds. However, evidence points to storage in close proximity to the crowd and the explosive materials, which likely increased the risk of chain reactions when the fireworks ignited (Indian Express, 2024). This lack of adherence to safety standards in the handling and storage of explosive materials could have triggered the uncontrollable explosion that led to such severe consequences.

2.3 Lack of Safety Protocols and Emergency Response Plans

Another critical contributing factor was the apparent lack of adequate safety protocols and emergency response plans during the fireworks display. Safety protocols are essential in large public gatherings involving fireworks, yet many such events often lack the comprehensive safety measures necessary to prevent or mitigate the impact of an accident. Eyewitnesses and initial reports have suggested that the event did not have sufficient crowd control measures or the necessary precautions to address a potential emergency. Moreover, no clear emergency response

procedures were in place to handle the aftermath of such a large-scale disaster (Hindustan Times, 2024). The absence of well-coordinated safety drills and the lack of trained personnel to respond promptly to the explosion resulted in delayed evacuations and insufficient medical assistance in the immediate aftermath of the incident.

2.4 Weak Enforcement of Safety Regulations

The explosion at the Kasaragod temple also raises concerns about the weak enforcement of safety regulations related to fireworks displays. Although there are established guidelines and safety measures for the handling of fireworks in public events, these regulations are often inadequately enforced. Reports have indicated that safety audits and inspections were either insufficient or not conducted regularly (Onmanorama, 2024). This lax enforcement allows unsafe practices to persist, contributing to the risk of accidents. Despite the known dangers associated with fireworks, local authorities and event organizers may not have strictly adhered to the prescribed safety standards, such as maintaining a safe distance between the fireworks and the crowd, ensuring proper containment of explosives, and requiring licensed professionals to oversee firework displays.

2.5 Human Error and Negligence

Human error and negligence also appear to have played a significant role in the explosion. Many accidents involving fireworks can be attributed to human mistakes, such as failure to follow safety protocols, neglecting proper risk assessments, or even simple oversights. In the case of the Kasaragod temple tragedy, there may have been lapses in judgment by event organizers, who either underestimated the risks involved or failed to recognize the critical need for safety measures (Indian Express, 2024). In addition, there have been reports of negligence in terms of supervision during the fireworks display, with some accounts suggesting that the fireworks were being handled by inadequately trained personnel. Furthermore, there were indications that the safety equipment on-site, such as fire extinguishers and emergency exits, were either lacking or insufficient, further exacerbating the tragedy.

In conclusion, the explosion at the Kasaragod temple can be attributed to a combination of factors, including improper storage and handling of fireworks, inadequate safety protocols, weak regulatory enforcement, and human error. Together, these factors created a dangerous environment

that allowed the explosion to unfold with devastating consequences. Addressing these issues through improved regulation, better safety protocols, and more thorough enforcement can help prevent similar tragedies in the future.

CHAPTER-III

FIREWORKS EXPLOSION AT KERALA'S KASARAGOD TEMPLE

A comparative analysis of different news reports on the Kasaragod temple fire tragedy reveals contrasting focuses on safety, regulatory accountability, and cultural aspects.

Mathrubhumi emphasized the **regulatory lapses** and lack of permission for fireworks, underscoring official responsibilities and possible violations of law. The coverage focused on responses from the district collector and officials about the absence of safety protocols and the temple's failure to secure necessary permissions, highlighting institutional accountability and the legal implications for festival organizers.

Onmanorama, on the other hand, provided an overview of the **casualty figures** and emotional impacts of the event. The report discussed the immediate community response and the tragedy's human toll, focusing on the personal experiences of victims and survivors. This coverage offered insight into the incident's social impact, reflecting the broader societal costs of inadequate safety enforcement.

The Times of India report balanced both **emotional** and **regulatory aspects**, detailing the lack of safety measures, eyewitness accounts, and the investigation process. It emphasized both human impact and institutional oversight failures, suggesting a need for stricter regulatory frameworks.

Together, these articles reflect a multifaceted tragedy: the necessity for tighter firework regulations, improved cultural practices during religious events, and an increased focus on both emotional and legal repercussions. This comparison illustrates how different outlets choose angles

that collectively inform a comprehensive understanding of the incident's causes, consequences, and community impact.

News Clip-1: Indian Express

Date: 29 October, 2024

Title: Fireworks explosion at Kerala's Kasaragod temple leaves over 150 injured

Link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/fireworks-accident-at-kerala-temple-festival-9643697/>

The District Collector of Kasaragod, K Inbasekar, informed reporters that the temple authorities had not obtained the necessary permission to light fireworks, and the police have detained the office bearers responsible.

The firecracker explosion at Anjootambalam Veerakavu temple in Kasaragod occurred during the annual theyyam ritual (also called kaliyattam) on the night of October 28-29, 2024. The explosion injured at least 154 people, with nine critically hurt. The incident took place when sparks from the fireworks display landed inside a nearby shed, known as the magazine, where the fireworks were stored. The shed was less than 100 meters from the fire-line (the display area), and the sparks ignited the stored fireworks, triggering a series of explosions.



The Indian Express

Over 150 injured, 8 seriously, in fireworks accident at Kerala temple festival

Top district administration officials, including the collector and the district police chief, have reached the spot

The explosion caused panic among attendees, many of whom suffered burn injuries. The District Collector confirmed that the temple authorities did not have permission for the fireworks display, and the police have arrested the temple office bearers. The severely injured individuals were transferred to the government medical college in Kannur, while others were treated in hospitals across Kasaragod and some even in Mangaluru.

Suresh Babu, a theyyam artist and eyewitness to the incident, stated that he had been performing at the temple for 40 years and had never seen anything like this. According to him, when a series of palm leaf crackers exploded, sparks fell on the nearby magazine, leading to the catastrophic explosion. Police also revealed that the shed contained mainly low-intensity Chinese crackers, which somewhat reduced the explosion's intensity.

The incident highlights the traditional practice of firecracker bursting during the theyyam festival, a significant event in North Kerala, especially in Kasaragod and Kannur.

News Clip-2: Hindustan Times

Date: 29 October, 2024

Title: Kerala fire: '80% burn injuries'. What happened during fireworks at Veererkavu temple festival in Kasargod.

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/kerala-temple-fire-80-burn-injuries-what-happened-during-during-fireworks-at-kasargod-festival-101730187267261.html>

The fire accident in Kerala occurred during the popular 'Theyyam' ritual at the Anjootambalam Veererkavu Temple in Kasaragod district when fireworks sparked a blaze that quickly spread. The explosion left 154 people injured, and two temple officials have been arrested for negligence, as the fireworks display lacked proper safety measures.

The incident happened early on Tuesday morning during the festival when sparks from the

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/kerala-temple-fire-80-burn-injuries-what-happened-during-during-fireworks-at-kasargod-festival-101730187267261.html>



Hindustan Times

Kerala fire: '80% burn injuries'. What happened during fireworks at Veererkavu temple festival in Kasargod
Kerala fire: The accident took place during the popular 'Theyyam' ritual at Anjootambalam Veererkavu Temple in Kasargod district when fireworks sparked a blaze.

fireworks fell into a storage room containing additional fireworks for the grand finale. This caused a massive explosion. Eyewitnesses described the chaos as the stored fireworks ignited, leading to panic and numerous injuries.

Kerala Police confirmed that the temple officials did not follow necessary safety protocols and had not obtained the required permissions for the fireworks display. According to District Collector K. Inbasekar, an investigation is underway to determine the extent of the procedural lapses.

Local authorities have collected samples from the site for forensic analysis, and a full review of safety measures will be conducted to prevent similar incidents in the future. Kasargod MP

Rajmohan Unnithan and local MLA M Rajagopal called the incident “unfortunate” and expressed concern over the safety lapses. The district collector stated that some of the seriously injured victims suffered up to 80% burns.

A preliminary investigation revealed that the fireworks storage facility was too close to the display area, and the required safety distance of 100 meters was not maintained. No permission had been granted for storing the fireworks, further contributing to the accident.

News Clip-3: Onmanorama

Date: 30 October, 2024

Title: Lessons learned or ignored: Revisiting Kerala's major fire tragedies

Link: <https://www.onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2024/10/30/major-fire-tragedies-kerala-puttingal-kasaragod-kollam.html>

The article likely explores major fire incidents in Kerala, focusing on lessons learned from tragedies like the Puttingal temple fire and the recent Kasaragod explosion. It highlights ongoing safety issues, insufficient regulations surrounding fireworks, and the failure to enforce stricter controls despite previous warnings. By revisiting these events, the article stresses the need to improve safety measures, raise public awareness, and enforce regulations to prevent future disasters.



Onmanorama

Lessons learned or ignored: Revisiting Kerala's major fire tragedies

A recurring factor in these accidents is the disregard for essential safety guidelines issued by authorities..Kerala fire accidents. temple fire accidents India. fire saf...

Despite past tragedies, safety regulations are often poorly enforced, especially at religious or public gatherings. The article probably emphasizes the need for better training for those handling fireworks, public education on fire risks, and government accountability to ensure compliance. By comparing past and recent incidents, it draws attention to the collective failure to act on safety

recommendations. A call to action for stricter safety checks, enhanced emergency response training, and public awareness campaigns may be highlighted to prevent further loss of life and property.

Key incidents include:

- **2016 - Puttingal Temple Fire:** One of Kerala's deadliest fire disasters occurred at the Puttingal temple in Kollam, where a fireworks mishap during a festival killed over 100 people and injured many more. This tragedy underscored serious safety lapses and sparked discussions on tightening firework regulations at public events.

- **Subsequent Years - Calls for Reform:** After the Puttingal fire, there were discussions about stricter regulations, better safety training, and enforcement of permits for pyrotechnics. However, these reforms were inconsistently applied, especially during large religious festivals where firework displays are common.



- **2024 - Kasaragod Temple Incident:** A recent firecracker explosion at a temple in Kasaragod resulted in numerous injuries, reflecting the same issues seen in previous disasters. This incident highlights the continued failure to address known safety concerns effectively.

News Clip-4: Mathrubhumi

Date: 30 October, 2024

Title: Nileshtar disaster: Collector says temple has no permission to conduct fireworks

Link: <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/kerala/nileshtar-temple-has-no-permission-to-conduct-firework-1.10029742>

In the Nileshtar disaster at the Theru Anhoottambalam Veerarkavu temple, a massive firework accident injured 154 people after a firecracker misfired and ignited a storage area with more explosives. Ten victims remain critically injured. The Kasaragod District Collector, K. Inbasekar, stated that the temple had no legal permission for fireworks, underscoring safety violations and regulatory lapses. Authorities have detained two temple officials, with additional investigations and legal actions ongoing to address accountability and reinforce firework safety in local temple festivals.

<https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/kerala/nileshtar-temple-has-no-permission-to-conduct-firework-1.10029742>



English.Mathrubhumi

Nileshtar disaster: Collector says temple has no permission to conduct fireworks

Kasaragod district collector K Inbasekar said that the temple has no permission to conduct fireworks

News Clip-5: Onmanorama

Date: 30 October, 2024

Title: Death Toll Touches Kasaragod Temple Fire Accident

Link: <https://www.onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2024/11/03/death-toll-touches-kasaragod-temple-fire-accident.html>

The Kasaragod temple fire accident, where a firecracker explosion during a festival caused numerous injuries and deaths. The authorities have arrested two temple officials, blaming negligence for the incident. Eyewitnesses described the chaos caused by the explosion, which resulted from sparks igniting stored fireworks. Investigations are ongoing, and officials are being questioned about safety protocol failures. This incident follows a history of fireworks-related tragedies in Kerala, emphasizing the need for stricter regulations and safety measures.

<https://www.onmanorama.com/news/kerala/2024/11/03/death-toll-touches-kasaragod-temple-fire-accident.html>



Onmanorama

Death toll touches two in Kasaragod temple fire accident

Ratheesh was receiving treatment on ventilator support at MIMS Hospital in Calicut due to burns that covered over 60% of his body.

News Clip-6: The Times of India

Date: 3 November, 2024

Title: Kasaragod temple fire tragedy claims second life as new details emerge

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kozhikode/kasaragod-temple-fire-tragedy-claims-second-life-as-new-details-emerge/articleshow/114916946.cms>

The Kasaragod temple fire tragedy claimed a second life as new details emerged. The explosion occurred during a firecracker display at the Anjootambalam Veerakavu temple, which was part of a religious festival. Witnesses described chaos as sparks ignited a nearby fireworks storage shed,

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/114916946.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst



The Times of India

Kasaragod Temple Fire Tragedy Claims Second Life as New Details Emerge | Kozhikode News - Times of India

A tragic firecracker explosion at Anjootambalam Veerar Kavu temple during the Theyyam festival in Kasaragod has resulted in two fatalities, with 154 injured. Authorities...

triggering a deadly blast. Police arrested two temple officials for negligence and failing to secure necessary permissions. This incident follows previous fireworks-related tragedies, raising concerns over safety protocols and regulatory oversight at religious events. A second person has died following the Kasaragod temple firework tragedy, with 154 others injured from the explosion during a festival. Investigations are underway to assess whether the temple had proper

permissions for the firework display, as new details emerge about safety oversights. Authorities are focusing on identifying the causes and ensuring accountability to prevent similar incidents.

CHAPTER-IV

LESSONS LEARNED AND FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Implications

The firecracker explosion at the Anjootambalam Veerakavu temple in Kasaragod, Kerala, which resulted in significant loss and injury, underscores the pressing need for substantial changes in how fireworks are handled and managed during public events. This tragic incident has illuminated several areas where improvements are necessary to prevent future disasters. These include strengthening safety regulations, enhancing safety training, improving emergency response capabilities, conducting public awareness campaigns, and incorporating technological advancements in firework safety. Addressing these areas is crucial to ensuring the protection of both individuals and communities during religious and cultural celebrations that involve fireworks.

4.1.1 Strengthening Safety Regulations for Fireworks

The need for stronger and more comprehensive safety regulations surrounding the use of fireworks at public events is one of the most significant lessons drawn from the Kasaragod explosion. Although there are existing regulations regarding the handling, storage, and use of fireworks in India, these laws are often poorly enforced or outdated. Strengthening these regulations involves enforcing stricter controls on the manufacture, storage, transportation, and handling of fireworks. Regulatory measures could include establishing mandatory safety audits for all large-scale firework displays, specifying safe distances between spectators and fireworks, and ensuring that all personnel involved in fireworks handling are licensed professionals. Additionally, increasing the frequency of inspections by local authorities and ensuring compliance with national safety standards could help prevent such incidents from occurring in the future (Onmanorama, 2024).

4.1.2 Enhancing Safety Training for Individuals Involved in Handling Fireworks

Another key measure to improve firework safety is the enhancement of safety training for individuals involved in the handling of fireworks. Many accidents, including the one in Kasaragod, are a result of human error or lack of proper training. Individuals responsible for managing

fireworks displays need to undergo rigorous training that covers everything from the safe handling and storage of fireworks to understanding emergency procedures in the event of a malfunction or accident. Training should be mandatory for all event organizers, workers, and volunteers involved in the display process. This could also include refresher courses to ensure that safety procedures remain up to date with the latest advancements in firework technology and safety protocols (Hindustan Times, 2024). Ensuring that personnel are adequately trained to handle emergencies could significantly reduce the risk of accidents.

4.1.3 Improving Emergency Response Capabilities

The importance of having robust emergency response capabilities during fireworks displays cannot be overstated. The Kasaragod explosion highlighted severe deficiencies in emergency preparedness, which contributed to the rapid spread of the fire and delayed medical responses. Improving emergency response capabilities involves ensuring that first responders are well-trained, equipped with necessary tools, and stationed at strategic locations near firework displays. Additionally, emergency response plans should be clearly outlined and practiced in advance, allowing personnel to react quickly and efficiently in the event of a disaster. Fire safety equipment, including fire extinguishers, water sources, and evacuation plans, should be readily available at all fireworks displays, particularly at crowded events (Indian Express, 2024). Improved communication and coordination between event organizers, local authorities, and emergency responders can also enhance the overall efficiency of emergency operations.

4.1.4 Public Awareness Campaigns on the Dangers of Fireworks

Public awareness campaigns are another vital aspect of improving firework safety. Despite the known dangers associated with fireworks, many people remain unaware of the risks involved in their handling and use. In the wake of the Kasaragod explosion, it is crucial to launch widespread public awareness campaigns that educate communities on the dangers of fireworks, especially in densely populated areas. These campaigns can highlight the importance of adhering to safety measures, such as maintaining a safe distance from fireworks, avoiding the use of homemade fireworks, and being mindful of fire risks. Schools, community centers, and religious institutions

can serve as platforms for disseminating safety information and training members of the public to recognize potential hazards during firework events (Onmanorama, 2024).

4.1.5 Technological Advancements in Fireworks Safety

Technological advancements have the potential to significantly improve firework safety. For example, remote ignition systems could be used to set off fireworks from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents caused by manual handling. Similarly, innovations in fire-resistant materials and safety sensors could help prevent fireworks from igniting prematurely or malfunctioning during displays. Additionally, the development of automated safety systems that can detect faults in fireworks or igniting mechanisms could provide early warnings and prevent explosions before they occur. Research into safer fireworks designs that are less prone to catastrophic failures should also be prioritized. By investing in these technologies, authorities can significantly reduce the risks associated with firework displays while still preserving their cultural and celebratory significance (Indian Express, 2024).

CHAPTER-V

CONCLUSION

5.1 Conclusion

The tragic firecracker explosion at the Anjootambalam Veerakavu temple in Kasaragod serves as a stark reminder of the risks associated with fireworks during public and religious events. This incident, which resulted in over 150 injuries, including severe burns, and significant property damage, has brought into sharp focus the critical need for reform in firework safety practices. Key factors contributing to the disaster, such as improper handling and storage of fireworks, lack of safety protocols, and weak enforcement of regulations, underline the urgency of addressing these issues to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

The explosion also highlighted significant gaps in emergency response preparedness, underscoring the need for better planning and training for handling large-scale public events involving fireworks. With these lessons in mind, it is crucial to strengthen safety regulations, enhance training for those involved in fireworks management, and adopt advanced technologies to ensure the safe execution of firework displays. Furthermore, public awareness campaigns should be implemented to educate communities about the potential dangers of fireworks and encourage responsible usage. Why can't we have a disaster management plan for these specialized events? Even we should have a disaster management of temple for normal days. The plan must be developed by a qualified disaster manager and copy of plan shall be submitted to the district disaster management authority.

This tragedy should not be viewed as a mere catastrophe, but as a pivotal opportunity for change. By learning from this incident and taking decisive action to improve safety measures, we can help ensure that future festivals remain joyous occasions rather than sites of sorrow. Strengthening safety protocols and regulatory oversight is not just an imperative; it is a moral responsibility to protect lives and preserve the integrity of cultural celebrations. The hope is that the Kasaragod disaster will serve as a catalyst for broader change in firework safety, ensuring that such a tragedy never happens again.

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