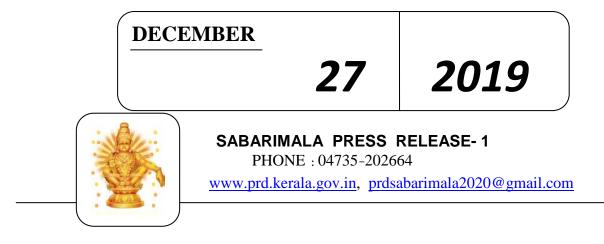


GOVT. OF KERALA

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT



Mandala Festival concludes and Sabarimala will open on 30th for Makara Vilakku festival

Little Ayyappans (Child pilgrims) and Malikapuram came down from the mountain with the fulfillment of seeing the Lord Ayyappa adorned with Thanka Anki. The nada was closed as usual after the Harivarsanam recital. The doors of the sanctum sanctorum are closed and the tantric and chief priest recedes to their restrooms. Only silence is left within Sabarimala for two more days. This year's Mandala-Makara Vilakku Festival at the Sabarimala Sri Dharmasastha Temple has been celebrated for 41 days. The mandala pooja ceremony was held at Kumbh Rasi between 10 am and 11.40 am under the patronage of tantric Kandararu Mahesh Mohanar and chief priest Arikara Sudhir Namboodiri. The nada will reopen on the 30th at 5 pm for the Makara Vilakku festival. Makara Jyothi is on January 15, 2020. The temple will be closed on January 21 after the Makara Vilakku festival bringing curtain to this year's pilgrimage.

The Devaswom Board said the pilgrimage so far is peaceful compared to last year. Devaswom Board said the number of pilgrims and attendance has increased over the previous year. There seemed a steady flow of devotees since the Nada opened on November 15 for the Mandala-Makara Vilakku festival. Sannidhanam and Pampa have been busy for the past three days. At some point during the rush hour, there was a restriction on the entry of Ayyappans from Pampa to Sannidhanam

The Devaswom Board has already made preparations for the Makara Vilakku Festival. Board will stock 15 lakh of Aravana in advance for the festival. Two lakh to three lakh packs of appam will be produced meet any rush situation in the coming days.

The Devaswom Board has already fixed the arrangements of the staff to be appointed during the Makara Vilakku pilgrimage. Drinking water counters will be extended to more centers.

Around 60 NSS volunteers from the Sasthamcotta Devaswom Board College have expressed their willingness to do service during the Makara Vilakku festival.

(PR-147)

Visudhi Sena members take it as a mission to clean Sabarimala before it reopens for Makara Vilakku festival

On the last day of the Mandala Pilgrimage, the Visudhi Sena is active cleaning the areas in and around Sabarimala. They are on a mission to cleanse the abode of Lord Ayyappa before it opens to receive more pilgrims for the Makara Vilakku festival two days after.

The Visudhi Sena members are more concerned about cleaning traditional routes as they have not got the time during the pilgrimage season to clean it regularly due to the influx of devotees. The Visudhi Sena cleansed Sabarimala and the surrounding areas during the mandala period by dividing it into nine areas - Apachemedu, Marakkuttam and Charalmedu. There are 290 Visudhi Sena members serving in the Sabarimala area alone. The district administration is looking after the Visudhi Sena member's activities, Most of the members are from Tamil Nadu. In addition to Sannidhanam, during the Mandala Makara Vilakku festival a total of 900 Visudhi Sena members are taking durty at Pampa, Nilakkal, Pandalam, and Kulanada.

(PR-148)

One million pilgrims sought treatment in Government hospitals

During the mandala pilgrimage, 1, 48,339 pilgrims visited government hospitals in Pampa, Sannidhanam, Neelimala, Apachemedu, Charalmedu and Nilakkal hospitals. Of these, 49233 were treated at Government Hospital and 18763 at Pampa Government Hospital. During this pilgrimage, 16 deaths were reported from Nilakkal to Sannidhanam. All deaths are due to heart attacks. Reported 146 cases in which emergency treatment was necessary. The Health Department estimates that 1174 pilgrims have been treated for epilepsy in six government hospitals from Nilakkal to Sannidhanam.

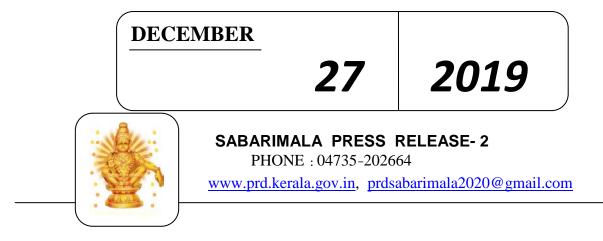
(PR-149)





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Mock drill at Sabarimala on 28th

A mock drill to check the security at Sabarimala will be held at Sannidhanam at 11.30 am. Mockdrill will be headed by District Collector PB Nooh, coordinating with various departments.

(PR-150)

