



GOVT. OF KERALA

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

JANUARY

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SABARIMALA PRESS RELEASE- 1

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Government Hospital at Sannidhanam treated 11434 patients during Makara Vilakku festival period

During the Makaravilakku pilgrimage, the government hospital at Sannidhanam has so far received 11434 patients. 1680 patients have been treated for heart problems, the medical charge officer said.

People with heart attacks range in age from 20 to 76 years. The long climb from Pampa to Sabarimala can cause many health problems even in a healthy person. Therefore, the elderly, children and patients are more likely to have serious health problems and should follow the instructions given by the health department. Pilgrims of all ages must slowly climb the mountain. All pilgrims over the age of 45, especially those with inherited cardiovascular problems or hypertension, should undergo medical examination before they ascend. Pilgrims who regularly take medicine should not stop taking medicines as part of the fasting. Patients suffering from asthma and allergic breathing problems should be cautious when going up the holly hillocks, Sannidhanam Medical Officer-in-Charge informed.

(PR-193)

Excise raids seized tobacco products, fine of Rs 6,1200 imposed

During the Sabarimala Makaravilakku pilgrimage, a fine of Rs 6,1200 has been imposed in 33 cases at various excise raid at Sannidhanam. The figures are from December 30, 2019 to January 7, 2017. The majority of cases are under the COTPA

(Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act) law. There have been 36 COTPA cases registered in Sannidhanam so far. Excise department officials said the seized items were destroyed. Various raids conducted in and around Sannidhanam seized at least five kilo of tobacco products.

The inspection was led by Excise Inspector TN Sudheer after he noticed tobacco / alcohol substances is use at Sannidhanam, Koprakkalam and Pandithavalam. The Excise Department will continue its inspection in the coming days, he said.


(PR-194)

A musical concert performed at Sabarimala

Sastha Dasan and his group, who are famous in the Tamil devotional songs, performed the concert in honor of Lord Ayyappa her at Sannidhanam. He was a close relative of Veeramani who sang the famous devotional song 'Pallikkattu Sabarimalakku'. He sang for two and a half hours.

Sabarimala has become a venue for music and other forms of artistic display after the opening for Makara Vilakku Festival. A large number of celebrities and non-performers perform on the stage at the Valiya Nadapanthal.

(PR-195)



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Makara Vilakku: Fifty forest department officials more will be appointed - Minister K Raju

Considering the Makara Vilakku rush at Sabarimala, the Forest Department will appoint 50 additional officials to assist the devotees along the traditional route. He was speaking at a review meeting held at the Pampa Forest dormitory to review the work of the Forest Department in connection with the Sabarimala pilgrimage. An Ayyappa devotee, a Tamil Nadu native, who was killed in a wild elephant attack on the forest road, will be given a compensation of Rs 10 lakh. Pilgrims are provided with excellent service by the Forest Department.

The department has helped in freeing plastic in Sabarimala. Pilgrims have provided shelter from wild animals by setting up resting places in the traditional forest route. Hot water distribution and medical camps are also conducted for the pilgrims. The forest department is carrying out a great work along with various departments including the Devaswom and the police. He added that this will be strengthened in the coming days.

Kerala Chief Wild Life Warden Surendra Kumar, Travancore Devaswom Board Commissioner BS Thirumeni, Kottayam Project Tiger Field Director KR Anoop, Forest Chief Conservator Vijayanand, Deputy Director CK Habi, DFOs M Unnikrishnan, KN Shyam Mohanlal, Y Vijayan and forest officers took part in the meeting.

(PR-196)

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