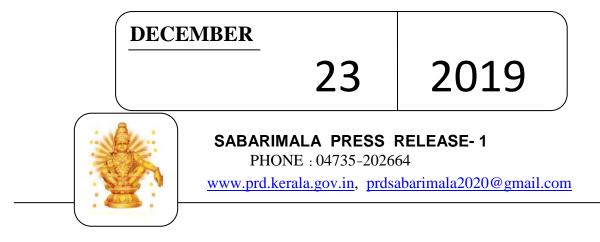


GOVT. OF KERALA

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT



Thanka Anki procession starts from Aranmula

The Thanka Anki, the golden coat, to be worn by the Lord Ayyappa on Mandala festival has started its journey towards the temple from Parthasarathy Temple, Aranmula. The procession started by placing the Thanka Anki in a golden chariot. The chariot left the Aranmula temple at around 7 am this morning amidst the chanting of the Ayyappa devotees. Earlier, the Thanka Anki had been placed in the strong room of the Aranmula Temple. Then, armed with a police escort, it was taken out and placed on a chariot made in the Sabarimala temple model. The procession will reach Sabarimala Sannidhanam on the 26th.

Travancore Maharaja Chithira Thirunal Balarama Verma donated in1973 the Thanka Anki to be adorned on the diety during the mandala puja. When the Thanka Angi chariot procession began, there was a huge crowd at Aranmula. Devaswom Board President N. Vasu, Members N Vijayakumar, and K.S. Ravi, Commissioner BS Thirumeni, former Devaswom Board president A Padmakumar, District Police Chief G Jayadev, district panchayat president Annapoornadevi and former MLA Maleth Saraladevi were also present. The police team from the AR camp follows the Thanka Anki procession in a special vehicle.

Fifty-five temples along the route have arranged a welcome reception. Devotees will arrive in Pampa at noon on the 26th. At 5.30 pm, those who had been assigned to receive the Thanka Anki would arrive at Thirunada and wear a special necklace and proceed to Sharankuthi. At 6 pm, the Thanga Anki procession will be followed by a ceremonial reception at Sharankuti. Then they will be brought to the temple. At 6.25 pm, the 18-foot Thnka Anki will be taken to the sanctum sanctorum by the temple priest and tantri. Afterward, a grand Deeparadhana will be held with the deity wearing the Thanka

Mandala puja ceremonies; Makaravilakku on January 15th

The temple will be opened on December 27 at 3 am, on the closing day of the forty-oneday Sabarimala Mandala Mahotsavam. Neyabhisehkam will take place on 3 .15 to 7 o'clock in the morning. Ushapooja at 7.30. The Neyabhishekam ritual will continue from 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. The mandala pooja will be held in Kumbha Rasi between 10 am and 11.40 pm with the Thanka Anki coat. The nada will close at 1 pm. The nada will reopen at 4 pm in the evening. Deeparadhan will be held at 6.30 pm. Athazhapooja is at 9.30. Harivarasanam, the lullaby of the Lord Ayyappa, will be sung at 9.50 pm. This would bring to an end the 41-day Mandala festival at Sabarimala. The temple will open on December 30 at 5 pm for Makaravilakku festival.

(PR-131)

Sudarshanam project helps elderly and differently-abled in Sabarimala

Sudarshanam project has come in help for two elderly mothers who have lost in Pampa late in the night. Devaki and Kasturi, hailing from Tamil Nadu, wandered in Pampa for hours waiting for their relatives to pick them up. They have lost while they were returning after the Sabarimala darshan. Sudarshanam Project volunteers have consoled the mothers who were struggling to find relatives. Then Sudarshanan volunteers tool them to the rest center and the bilingualist there asked them their whereabouts. Relatives were contacted on the phone after getting the phone numbers from them. Meanwhile, relatives searched their mothers elsewhere in Pampa but could not find them. Knowing this, Sudarshanam activists brought their mothers from Pampa to Nilakkal and handed them over to their relatives.

Sudarsanam volunteers also made a timely effort to find two missing children and take them to their parents. The Sudarshanam project was launched this month under the aegis of the Department of Social Justice and the District Administration with the aim of reuniting elderly and differently-abled people getting lost in Sabarimala. The Sudarshanam scheme provides services with the help of trained volunteers and translators. Sudarshanam project provides the service of National Service Scheme volunteers and palliative activists from various colleges. In the meantime, Sudarshanam volunteers have become a helping hand for 3390 pilgrims who have struggled due to physical disabilities.

Many pilgrims have been provided medical care through the Emergency Medical Center. The Sudarshanam rest house in Pampa has served 585 pilgrims so far. Special assistance was provided to 271 pilgrims who had to struggle in the queue for darshan. Sudarshanam Information Counter has been started in Pampa and Nilakkal. Bilingual services were also provided there. As a part of the project, the Forest Department has made arrangements for seating facilities in the forest areas.

District Collector PB Nooh said the Sudarshanam project is based on the policy and the vision of equal rights of persons of old age and disability at all levels. Sudarshanam is being implemented by the District Probation Office with the support of Devaswom Board, Health Department, Forest Department, and Police Departments.

(PR-132)

Mockdrill on 24th

A Mock drill will be held on Tuesday (Dec 24) in partnership with various departments. The mock drill will assess the security precaution when during the time the devotees were forced to remain where the majority of the devotees have to remain in base camp on solar eclipsed on 26th. The mock drill will be held at 2.45 pm near the KSRTC bus parking lot at Nilakkal.

(PR-133)

Solar Eclipse day rituals at Sabarimala

The nada will be closed on the 26th morning from 7.30 to 11.30 due to solar eclipse. The following are the rituals on the day of the eclipse. The temple will open at 3 in the morning and the Neyabhishekam will take place from 3.15 to 6.40 in the morning following the Usha pooja. The temple will be closed from 7.30 to 11.30 in the morning. The temple will be opened at 11.30 after certain rituals. Kalashabhisekham will be followed by Kalabhabhishekam. Neyyabhishekam will take place from 12 to 1 in the afternoon. After the Uchapooja, the nada will be closed then. In the evening at 5, the nada will be opened and Deeparadhana will be held at 6.30 in the evening with deity clad in Thanka Anki. Athazha Pooja will be at 9.30 and by 10.50, Harivarasanam will be recited and nada will be closed at 11 in the evening.

(PR-134)

