



## GOVT. OF KERALA

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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### SABARIMALA PRESS RELEASE

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### **No case of snake bites this time; Efforts of Forest Department save 364 snakes**

The meticulous effort of the Forest Department has helped this pilgrim season at Sabarimala devoid of any case of snake bite. This year the department has captured 364 snakes, both venomous and non-venomous, that has strayed into the traditional trekking paths. An expert has been appointed by the department this year exclusively to catch these snakes which posed a higher risk to the devotees to Sabarimala. The captured snakes were later released into the inner forest. The department this year is on a mission to safeguard the pristine locals of Sannidhanam and the nearby areas clean and safe. The department has initiated steps as advised by the KSEB and the Police to make it easier for the devotees to view the Makarajyothi.

There are reports of elephant herd raiding the areas near Pandithavalam, Urakkuzhi regions and so as to keep away the animals the department officials are resorting to the traditional method of bursting crackers.

The department has also given strict orders to the shopowners in the traditional path to not to deposit wastes inside the forest. This is attracting the wild herds to raid these

place. Strict monitoring on an everyday basis is conducted. Devotees who spot the wild animals in the traditional route should not resort to any method to scare the animal. In fact, they should inform the forest officials or Police officers in the phone number 04735-202077.

### *Mrindangam concert staged*

The mrindangam concert at Sannidhanam Sree Dharmasastha auditorium last day has turned to be a feast for the eyes and ears. The students of Korumbu Mridangam Kalari near Korumbu of Thrissur did the show as a tribute to the Lord Ayyappa.

28 of the students from 5 years to 18 years took part in the concert. The youngest Kailas has only turned five and Devangana was the only lady presence among the participants. K S Vikraman Nampoothiri who has been teaching Mrindangam for the last 30 years and is Guru to hundreds of students lead the show. This is the first time that the institution is coming with their students to stage a show in front of Lord Ayyappa.

The show was later followed by a violin concert by Murali Kodungalloor.

### *Efforts taken for the hassle-free darshan at Sabarimala, says Executive officer V N Chandrasekharan*

Efforts have been made at Sabarimala in the wake of an increase in the rush. Sabarimala Executive Office V N Chandrasekharan has said that steps were taken to tackle any rush at Sabarimala and the smooth conduct of darsan. He added that the coordinated efforts of all the departments have made it easy in controlling the crowd so far. Water and biscuits were supplied to the devotees standing in the long queues. Sufficient stock of Appam and Aravana is already in stock, he informed. 25 lakh aravana containers and two and a half lakh appam is in the reserve.

### *Shanmugham ascends holy hillocks for fifth time on his brother's shoulder*

A bright smile was visible on the face of Shanmugham from Adayar near Chennai when he saw the deity of Lord Ayyappa here at Sannidhanam. Shanmugham who has physical disability down the body has ascended the holy hillocks on the shoulders of his brother Rajeiv. It is the fifth time that this lad is coming to Sabarimala. He came along with a five-member team from Adayar. He said that he will come next year also to see his favourite lord. He also thanked the Lord for giving him courage and strength next time as well.

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