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SABARIMALA

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Thousands witness Makarajyothi in a devotion-drenched atmosphere at Sabarimala

Sabarimala: They were in long wait for more than a day at Sabarimala and once the Makarajyothi (Holy Lamp) was seen on the hills of Ponnambalamedu the chants of Lord Ayyappa has reached to a crescendo. The piety, love, and devotion filled the air. It was around 6.45 in the evening that the Makarajyothi appeared. Thousands witnessed the lamp in Sannidhanam alone and many more thousands saw it from other different vantage points around the Holy hillock of Sabarimala.

It was few minutes before the Deeparadhana that the two boxes containing the Thiruvabharana reached the Sannidhanam. Tantri Mahesh Mohanaru and Melsanthi AV Unnikrishnan received it. The deity has been adorned with the jewels and the deeparadhana was conducted later with a charged atmosphere amidst Sarana mantra.

Earlier the Thiruvabharana procession was received officially and welcomed to Sannidhanam by the Minister for Devaswom Kadakampally Surendran, Kodikkunnil Suresh MP, Travancore Board president A Padmakumar, Pathanamthitta District Collector R Girija, Sabarimala

Highpower Committee chairman Rtd Justice S Sirijagan, Devaswom Commissioner CP Ramrajprema Prasad, Rtd Justice Arijit Passayath, Devaswom Board member KP Sankaradas, ADGP Sudesh Kumar, IG S Srejith, Devaswom Special Officer M Manoj, Chief Engineer V Sankaran Potti and others.

The procession was earlier received at Saramkuthy in the evening. The Makaravilakku rituals that started on Sunday with the Makarasankrama pooja. The darshan with the deity wearing the sacred jewels will be until 18th January and the Neyyabhisheka ritual will be conducted till 19th.

Safe, Secure Sabarimala pilgrim season has come to a close

Sabarimala: With the Makarajyothi appearing on the hills of Ponnambalamedu on Sunday evening, a safe and secure pilgrim season comes to an end. Though the temple will be opened for few more days, the official pilgrim season this year has come to an end on Sunday. It is the concerted efforts of the various departments at Sabarimala has enabled a secure and safe season this year. The government has been active and responsible for the situation and the efforts of Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran in guiding each and everything has been the reason behind the success of the festival. Pathanamthitta District Administration headed by Collector R Girija has proved to be a success with each departments working like an oiled machine. The worth share of praise for this year's success will definitely go to Board President A Padmakumar and his team members K Raghavan and KP Sankaradas.

The commendable role played by the Police Department of the state too has contributed a great deal to the success. RPF and NDRF too worked shoulder to shoulder with the Police force. The medical department and the revenue department have played the part well this time and this has helped in the speedy transfer of things at Sabarimala.

KSRTC too had joined the effort with more number of service operating from Pampa and helping the devotees with a hassle-free travel to their respective places. KSEB, BSNL, Postal Department and many other organizations efforts have turned worthwhile. Devotees, thousand of them, thronged today have started the ascension of hills with a happy mind and a devotional heart that would beat to the tunes of Sarana Mantra.

'Harivarasanam' award presented to K S Chitra

Sabarimala: Harivarasanam award constituted by the Kerala Government was given to singer K S Chitra for her role in contributing to the spirit of secularism, equanimity, and universal brotherhood. Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran gave away the cash prize of Rs one lakh, citation, and plaque at a function here at Sabarimala on Sunday morning. Minister in the function lauded Chitra and her contribution to the world of arts. She has, he said, is a pride of the state of Kerala. So far Chitra sang more than 20,000 songs in different languages this include Hindi as well. She is a name that can be likened to legendary singer K J Yesudas, said the minister. He also added that Chitra is the first female singer to bag the award.

In her reply speech, Chitra thanked all and said that the award is one of the important awards in her life. She has ascended the holy hillocks carrying the 'irumudikettu'.

Raju Abraham MLA presided the award function. Pathanamthitta District Collector R Girija ,Sabarimala High power committee chairman Rtd Justice Siri Jagan, Rtd Justice Arijit Pasayath, Travancore Devaswom Board president A Padmakumar, Board Member K P Sankaradas, Commissioner Somraj Prasad, actor Jayaram were present and delivered speeches on the occasion. Chitra also graced the occasion with her songs.

The Harivarasanam award was first constituted in the year 2012 and K J Yesudas was the winner then. Music director Jayan, Singers P Jayachandran, SP Balasubramaniam, M G Sreekumar, Gangai Amaran were the other award recipients so far.

Proposed Rs 305 crore projects to be completed within a time frame: Minister Kadakampally Surendran

Sabarimala: The proposed 305 crore development initiatives planned at Sabarimala would be completed in a stipulated time frame, said Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran. He said this while after reviewing the final stages of preparations for Makaravilakku festival here on Sunday morning. He said that the Highpower committee to Sabarimala has been empowered and the advisory committee has also formed for this. He also appreciated the efforts of the various departments in making the pilgrim season a success.

Raju Abraham MLA, Travancore Devaswom Board President A Padmakumar, Pathanamthitta District Collector R Girija, Board member KP Sankaradas, Executive Officer VN Chandrasekharan were present during the occasion.

Neyyabhishekam using the ghee from Kawadiyar Palace

Sabarimala: This year on Makarasamkramam day the Neyyabhishekam to Lord Ayyappa was done using the ghee brought from the Kawadiyar palace, said A Padmakumar, Board President. Earlier along with the ghee from Kawadiyar palace, the offered ghee from devotees were also used. The ghee from the palace was brought here by the Guruswami Ramanathan and 'Kanni' Ayyappa Vigneswaran.



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