

Legal aid clinic's:

Legal aid clinic's are actively functioning at Sannidanam and Pamba. The clinics that offer free legal assistance to pilgrims are being conducted by the Kerala State Legal Services Authority and the District Legal Services Authority. Pilgrims can submit their written complaints at the clinics. Pathanamthitta District Sub-Judge R.Jayakrishnan would resolve the complaints. He would reach Pamba and Sannidanam for sitting on December 16 for reviewing the three complaints received at the clinics so far. Multi-lingual brochures in Malayalam, Tamil, English, and Telugu are being distributed and video shows are also being organised at the legal clinic's for creating legal awareness. The videos focus on the need for maintaining Pamba and Sannidanam clean and hygienic. The clinic's provide assistance on 9846700100.

Sabarimala pilgrimage details on social media

Details of the Sabarimala pilgrimage with news, pictures and videos have been posted by the Information and Public Relations Department on its mobile app, Facebook and twitter handles. The mobile application, PRD LIVE can be downloaded from the play store. The page [sabarimalaprd](https://www.facebook.com/sabarimalaprd) can be accessed on Facebook. The twitter account is <https://twitter.com/PRDSannidanam>

Warning to cardio patients

Sannidanam health Nodal Officer Dr. G.Suresh Babu has advised pilgrims having cardiac ailments to seek medical advice and ensure physical efficiency before starting the pilgrimage to Sabarimala. Those having medicines for diabetes and blood pressure should take medicines without fail. Pilgrims should not stop medicines while starting the `vrutham.' Such pilgrims should take time and slowly ascend the hills and relax on feeling any discomfort. Still if they feel fatigued, they should seek medical assistance. Emergency Medical Care Centres have been set up at a distance of 50 metres on the way to Sabarimala. Those having medical problems should not be compelled to climb against their will. They should also keep the prescription and medical history for rendering timely medical support, Dr.Suresh Babu said.

Dr.Suresh babu said that 13 per cent pilgrims who seek medical assistance was

cardiac patients. He revealed the details at a review meeting on the festival conduct at Sannidanam, As many as 90,000 pilgrims sought medical care till December 12, of which 13 per cent was cardiac patients. 76 pilgrims sought care for heart attack and 133 for related ailments. As many as 15 persons died till December 14 and majority of them belong to the age group between 40 and 60 years. He proposed to set up a resting centre on the Chandranandan Road. 500 pilgrims seek treatment at the Ayurveda Hospital every day. One chicken pox case was reported at the Homoeo Hospital.

Plastic ban:

Liaison officer of Tamil Nadu Government A.Ajikumar informed the review meeting that a poster campaign has been organised in the temples there on plastic ban and also against the practice of relinquishing clothes in Pamba. Executive Officer R.Ravisankar, Police Assistant Special Officer Dr.Karthikeyan Gokulachandran, Excise CI T.A.Ashok Kumar, PRO Murali Kottakakom, Festival Controller C.T.Padma Kumar and officials of various departments attended the meeting. The next meeting has been scheduled for December 19

Sannidanam Police Special Officer

Sannidanam Police Special Officer P.K.Madhu would handover charge to Thiruvananthapuram Traffic SP Vijayakumar on December 15. Mr.Madhu said that the police were able to provide satisfactory and efficient service to the pilgrims. Certain curbs had to be imposed following the heavy rush of pilgrims. Some lapses have been detected in the conduct of police officials and directions have been given to rectify it too. A meeting of police officials was held as part of the change of guard at Sannidanam.

Fine levied:

A sum of Rs.1,07,000 has been levied as fine from pilgrims till December 13 for using tobacco products under COPTA, Excise CI T.A. Ashok Kumar said. As many as 153 packets of cigarettes, 2,342 packets of beedi and 240 packets of hans have been seized.

TDB to open Vedic College:

Travancore Devaswom Board would set up a Veda-Vedanta-Vedic College at the Devi Temple at Shangumughom in Thiruvananthapuram in association with the Vivekananda University, Kolkata, president Prayar Gopalakrishnan has said. He was inaugurating the centenary celebrations of Sree Ramakrishna Matom in Thiruvananthapuram. The board is planning to set up a sub-centre of the university for conducting profound studies on Vedas, he said.

Pilgrims from 30 countries had reached Sabarimala during the previous Mandalam and Makaravilakku seasons. The vedic college has been mooted in view of their desire, he said.

Swami Mokshaprathananda presided.

Food safety inspections intensified:

Food safety squads have intensified their inspections in the eateries as well as the dining halls at Sannidanam and Pamba to ensure that they are functioning as per norms. Notices have been served on eight units in Pamba, Nilakkal and Laha on finding lapses in hygiene. A sum of Rs.9000 was levied as fine. Drinking water samples from Pamba were send to the Food Analyst Laboratory at Pathanamthitta and CFRD Laboratory at Konni for bacteria tests. Action would be taken on the basis of the test reports. The squads have warned against selling soda and drinking water and other food items without labels. A sample of the rice carted to Sannidanam was despatched to the Food Analyst Laboratory in Thiruvananthapuram for quality test. Food Safety Officers P.J.Varghese and Sujtith Perieira led the raids.

Food safety directions:

Eateries have been told to prominently display the Food Safety Licence and Food Safety Toll Free NO.(1800 425 1125) for the piilgrims' attention. Shops and other establishments should maintain the medical fitness certificates of their staff members. They should wear clean dress while preparing food. Waste should be collected in containers with lid and managed efficiently. Food items should not be kept or distributed in newspapers. Cooked food should be stored in closed cans.

Sivamani's offering:

Veteran drummer Sivamani made a rhythm offer at the Sree Ayyappa Auditorium. Mr.Sivamani reminisced his first visit while working at the studio of playback singer S.P.Balasubramaniam in Chennai and while accompanying him to Sinagpore, he had a feeling to return to Sabarimala. He returned to Chennai took vrutham and then reached Sabarimala. Then he played a rhythm combination on the utensils and from then he had been visiting and playing rhythm at Sabarimala. Each pilgrimage is a perennial source of energy and inspiration for him. He also remembered, how he escaped a road accident while on vrutham.