



GOVT. OF KERALA

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

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Punyam Poonkavanam inaugurated

Punyam Poonkavanam, the cleaning programme observed at Sabarimala, gets to an official start this season on Saturday morning. The programme aims for a clean Sabarimala every pilgrim season is observed everyday at Sannidhanam, Pampa, Nilakkal, Erumeli and various other places of Sabarimala. The programme also makes way for a peaceful pilgrimage to the devotees.

Sabarimala Special Commissioner and Kollam District Judge M Manoj inaugurated the programme by lighting the traditional lamp. He said that the programme has helped to change the tendency of the devotees of littering wastes here and there by putting it in the waste bins. Moreover, it also created an awareness among the devotees that it is their responsibility to keep Sabarimala, the abode of Lord Ayyappa, to keep clean.

This is the sixth year of the programme that is successfully observed with the participation of the forces like NDRF, RAF, State Police and volunteers from SBI, Travancore Devaswom and the devotees.

The programme has so far helped in controlling plastic wastes to Sabarimala. The awareness it has spread to the devotees all these years is helping the Sabarimala premises safe, clean, and tidy. It also aims to keep the ecosystem as it is without disturbing its order.

NDRF Deputy Commandant G Vijayan, RAF Deputy Commandant G Dinesh, S Sinkaravel, Inspector of Police I M Vijayan and the programme co ordinator Mohankumar were present. (PR1)

Steps to be followed to make a peaceful pilgrimage to Sabarimala

Avoid bringing materials especially plastics that is harm to the ecosystem.

Devotees should be kind to take away wastes to their home and destroy it other than dumping it at Sabarimala. Devotees should participate at least for an hour in the cleaning initiatives.

Preserve and Protect the river Pampa. While bathing in the river, kindly avoid using soap and oil. Please don't throw clothes in the river while returning. Keep the toilets always clean. Use toilets always and avoid open defecation. Devotees should follow the queue system to avoid rush. Avoid throwing wastes. Devotees should keep in mind that pilgrimage to Sabarimala owes a certain responsibility. (PR 2)

Sabarimala witness heavy rush on opening day of Mandala season

Sabarimala has witnessed an unprecedented rush on the opening day of *Mandala* season. The devotees from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have come in large numbers on the *Vrischikam 1*. The Travancore Devaswom Board has arranged more facilities for the smooth *darsan* for devotees.

A large number of devotees were seen in the *sopanam* and *valiyanadapanthal* when the *nada* (sanctum sanctorum) was opened at three in the morning. In the morning, *Neyyabhishekam*, *Ganapathihoma* and *Ushapooja* were taken place. The facilities at the *Annadana Mandapam* (free-food serving centre) was of great help to the devotees. The morning breakfast was served here in the morning. Security arrangements by the state police is also helping devotees in a great deal. Though there saw a heavy rush in the morning, the timely intervention of the police has helped the smooth transition of devotee flow. This has helped devotees not to stand for long hours for *darsan*.

In the wake of rush, Travancore Devaswom Board has opened more counters to distribute appam and aravana. Hot drinking water facilities were also arranged on various spots en route to Sabarimala. Facilities to lay *viris* (bedding) at Nillakkal base camp has become a great help to the devotees. Moreover, the enhanced parking facilities also come as good in preventing traffic between Nilakkal and Pampa. Kerala Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has arranged more services in the stretch in the wake of heavy rush. (PR3)

Media Centre opens at Sannidhanam

The Information and Public Relations Department has opened their media centre at Sabarimala as part of the Mandala festivals. Sabarimala Special Commissioner and Kollam District Judge M Manoj inaugurated the media centre on Saturday. Media Centre will inform the public and media about the various developments at Sabarimala as part of the Mandala-Makaravilakku festivals.

District Information Officer C Manilal, Assistant Editor N Satheesh Kumar, Photographer P Dalu, Information Assistant Kannanunni were present on the occasion. Contact: 04735 202664. Email: prdsannidhanam2019@gmail.com. (PR4)



വാർത്തകൾ ഇനി കാണാം... കേൾക്കാം... വായിക്കാം...

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