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SABARIMALA PRESS RELEASE

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PHONE : 047352202664

www.prd.kerala.gov.in, sabarimalanews18@gmail.com

Sabarimala temple will close on 20th

Neyyabhishekam at the Sree Dharmasastha temple here, as part of the Makaravilakku festival has come to an end on Thursday. In the morning at 11, the Neyyabhishekam ceremony has completed using the 'mudra' from the Pandalam Palace. After that, the 'Kalabhabhisheka' has taken place in the presence of the royal representative Thrikketta Thirunal Rajarajavarma. He, after that, went to Malikappuram and offered his prayers to the deity. He also gave 'dakshina' (offering) to the Malikappuram melsanthi Aneesh Nampoothiri. After that 'Kalabhasadya' took place. The darshan with Lord Ayyappa adorned in thiruvabharana has also come to an end on Thursday. Sabarimala is seeing a record number of crowds even after the Makaravilakku festival.

Devotees can have darshan with 'irumudikettu' till 19th January 10 in the night. Though the Neyyabhishekam was not there, the devotees can but submit the ghee at the 'Neythoni'.

On 20th January morning the nada will be opened at 6 in the morning and this day the royal representative from the Pandalam palace was only allowed to see and offer prayers before the Lord Ayyappa. The key of the sanctum sanctorum will be handed over to the royal representative by the melsanthi. This time, the representative will give an amount (kizhi) to the melsanthi as expense money for the next year. This will take at holy steps. The thirubharana will be returned to the Pandalam Palace.

Kalamazhuthumpattum, Vilakkezhunnalathu ends

The Kalamezhuthumpattum and Vilakkezhunnalathu as part of the Makaravilakku festival will end on 18th January. It was from Makarasankrama day to the next five days that the ritual has been taking place at the Manimandapam here. For the last four days, the processions were only up to the holy steps and on 18th, this will be taken out up to Saramkuthy.

These days the 'Kalam' drawing ceremony will take place at the Manimandapam after deeparadhana. Here the different postures of the Lord Ayyappa are created using natural colours. The ritual is been conducted by the Kurups of Kunnakkad, Ranni. It is after the athaazhapooja that the 'Vilakkezhunnalathu' will take place. 'Nayattuveli' is a ritual associated with this. It is the loud singing in a special tone the Sree Ayappacharitham is known as Nayattuveli. This is conducted by Ramachandra Swamy and family.

4.7 lakh fine imposed in various cases

The Excise department this year at Sabarimala has imposed Rs 4,07,000 fine in about 2048 cases, said the Excise Circle Inspector K K Anilkumar. Two persons impersonated as Ayyappa devotees carrying 4 litres of liquor and 16 gram of ganja were arrested and produced before the court. In a total, the department had seized 50 kilograms of tobacco materials.

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