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PHONE : 04735202664

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

Complaint-free pilgrim season in Sabarimala: Devaswom Minister

Sabarimala: The precaution measures planned months before the Sabarimala pilgrim season and the joint effort of various departments along with Travancore Devaswom Board and the District Administration have made this year's festival a success, said Kadakampally Surendran, Devaswom Minister. The most satisfying thing is that this season was a complaint-free one, he said.

The 5000 policemen, the concerted efforts of KSEB, Water Authority, Health department have contributed a large to the success. Moreover, the health and treatment facilities enhanced at various hospitals of Sabarimala also helped the devotees during the time of their need. Cardiology department saved many lives and assured quality treatment to the devotees. Devotees have also cooperated in making this season a success, said the minister.

The minister also said that the preparations for the next year will commence in February and is aimed to make the facilities more in providing great comfort to the devotees.

Unity of people made season a great success: Melsanthi

Sabarimala: Melsanthi AV Vishnunampoothiri said on Friday that the auspicious pilgrim season of Sabarimala has come to an end and it is the unity of people made it a great success. He also said that the devotees are also high cooperative in helping the holy hillocks plastic free. Try to bring purest materials in 'Irumudikkettu'. Throwing clothes in holy river Pampa is not the custom of Kerala. We are committed to protect all our rivers including Pampa, he said.

Sabarimala Temple to be closed on Jan 20

Sabarimala: 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 thiruvabharana will be returned to the Pandalam Palace.

The temple will reopen on February 12th evening 5 PM for Kumbhamasa pooja.

Vilakkezhunnalathu ends

Sabarimala: The Kalamezhuthumpattum and Vilakkezhunnalathu as part of the Makaravilakku festival end. For the last four days, the

processions were only up to the holy steps and on its final day, was taken out up to Saramkuthy. It was from Makarasankrama day to the next five days that the ritual has been taking place at the Manimandapam here.

These days the 'Kalam' drawing ceremony was at the Manimandapam after deeparadhana. Here the different postures of the Lord Ayyappa were created using natural colours. The ritual was conducted by the Kurups of Kunnakkad, Ranni.

It is after the athaazhapooja that the 'Vilkkezhunnalathu' will take place. 'Nayattuvili' is a ritual associated with this. It is the loud singing in a special tone the Sree Ayappacharitham is known as Nayattuvili. This is conducted by Ramachandra Swamy and family.

ID cards lost from devotees sent back

Sabarimala: It has shown once again that the Publicity officers at Sabarimala are good samaritans. The various cards which include ATM cards, Aadhar, and others that have been found in the premises of Sabarimala were sent back to the corresponding addresses. Travancore Devaswom Board PRO Murali Kottakakkam has said that more than 100 such cards were sent back to the respective addresses. He added that this is not the first time that the Board is doing such an act. The expense needed for those bored by the Board.

Fine of Rs 2.86 lakhs collected in 70 cases

Sabarimala: In the raids that were taken during the Mandala-Makaravilakku season here at Sabarimala under the duty magistrate has imposed Rs 2, 86, 500 in 70 cases. This time it has made stricter the inspection and raids at the various hotels and eateries. Illegal vendors were not allowed and those were find in Sannidhanam were taken into custody later to be released. The lottery vendors, beggars were not allowed this time.

The Sanitation Society of Sabarimala too has contributed well in maintaining cleanliness when at a time the devotees poured in. They had set a team of nine and operated at different parts of the holy hillock.

Duty Magistrate S Santhoshkumar, Executive Magistrate Sankaran Nampoothiri, Deputy Tahasildar K C Sunilkumar, Babu K George, Inspector Legal Metrology U K Sunilkumar, Assistant Legal Metrology officer P U Thulasiraj, Village Officer Balakrishnan, Health Inspector Anilkumar, Rationing Inspector N Jayakumar were part of the team.

