



GOVT. OF KERALA

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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SABARIMALA PRESS RELEASE

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Russian pilgrims reach Sabarimala

A seven-member team from Sabarimala led by Iliya alias Induchoodan reached Sabarimala on Wednesday. Members of the team from St. Peters Burg, who were lured by Indian philosophy, is reaching the hill shrine for the 11th consecutive year. Induchoodan's two children, their three male friends and woman form part of the team. They had observed the conventional ``vrutham'' for 41 days before embarking on the pilgrimage to Sabarimala. The group has evoked much curiosity among the native pilgrims. Iliya learned the basics of Indian philosophy from a Veda coaching centre at Idukki. Later he adopted Hindu religion and changed his name as Induchoodan. He has many disciples in Russia and is currently engrossed in teaching the Vedas along with his business. Mahesan, a native of Kochi is the leading swami in the team. Mahesan had been leading the Russian team to Sabarimala for the past few years.

3478 persons seek treatment on Tuesday

About 3,478 pilgrims sought treatment from various hospitals and dispensaries in Pamba and its precincts on Tuesday. About 434 pilgrims turned up at the Government Dispensary at Pamba alone. This included 412 men, seven women and 15 children. About 94 persons had cardiac ailments. At the Neelimala Dispensary, 170 men and 4 women came for treatment, of which 69 had cardiac complaints.

As many as 1,338 persons sought medical aid at the Sannidhanam dispensary. This comprised 1,253 men, 52 women and 33 children. Out of that, 240 persons had cardiac complaints. The number of patients who reached the Apachimdeu Dispensary is 308, including 262 men, 17 women, and 27 children and among them 65 were cardiac cases. At Nilakkal it was 196, including 154 men, 29 women and 13 children.

Soman Achari's unique offering

Soman Achari, 53, is an epitome of dedication and flawless devotion to Lord Ayyappa. He reached Sannidhanam with 608 'Ney thenga' (Ghee filled coconuts). He alone bears the coconuts filled 36 kg ghee and had been doing it for the past 36 years. Starting from Pamba on Tuesday afternoon, he reached the Sannidhanam by 8 p.m.. His son Prasad and some neighbours too had joined to help Soman Achari. A native of Neeror, Soman was a head load worker, but now is mostly into farming. He manages the funds from the contributions of those reaching the Subramaniya Swamy Temple near his house.

Mosquito eradication drive on

Fogging began at Sannidhanam to get rid of the mosquito menace. It was mostly concentrated at the police barrack, camp cleaning corps and such other places. Spraying too has been intensified. Blood samples of migrant workers too are also being examined. Health Department personnel are inspecting the food distribution centres too. The cooking personnel and those working at the serving halls have been told to take health cards. Contractors have been directed to produce the clinical test results of their employees.

Health Inspector K.K.Santhosh, Junior Health Inspectors C.C.Jayan, Lijumon Jacob, field workers Anil Kumar, Siva Prasad, are leading such functions. Excise intensifies search: Excise personnel's searches at Sannidhanam and Marakootam during the past one week yielded 136 cases of liquor during the past one week. A fine of Rs.27,2000 levied for selling and consuming tobacco products. The seizure yielded 1,300 cigarettes, 2.250 bundles of beedi and 15 kg tobacco among others. Excise Circle Inspector, D.adhusudanan Pillai, Inspectors Benny George, M.Surendran, Assistant Inspector T.Kunjukrishnan led the raids.

Water recycling

The Public Works Department would embark on a water recycling project, to clean the waste water at Sannidhanam and then release it to Pamba, for reducing pollution. This will help reduce the flow of waste water from hotels and toilets at Sannidhanam to Pamba. The waste water would be cleaned using a diesel pump and then released to Pamba. This is the first such project, PWD Assistant Engineer

G.Basanth Kumar said.


Toll-Free LINE

In order to ensure clean pathways and hygienic food to pilgrims, squads have been pressed into service, Sannidhanam Duty Magistrate Rajachandran Nair has said. Complaints about excessive price, weight and quality of food products could be reported to the toll-free number 1800 425 1606. Shops have been told display price boards. Strong action would be taken against violators, he said. A penalty of Rs.21,000 has been levied for similar offences. Tobacco products worth Rs.50,000 were seized and destroyed. Executive Magistrate G.V.Hariharan Nair, Abhilash K.S., Shaji P.M., P.A.Sajiv Kumar and P.N.Mohanan were also there in the team that led the searches.

Squads active

Squads comprising Deputy Tahsildar, Village Officer, Legal Metrology Inspector, assistant and the police are working round the clock from Sanidhanam to Apachimedu. Squads of Health Inspector and Rationing Inspector are checking the quality of food. Food Safety Officer is checking adulteration too. Cleaning Corps. A 300-member cleaning core is active under the supervision of the duty Magistrate. Members of the Sanitation Society have been deployed after dividing the festive region as nine different zones such as THirumuttom, Nadapanthal, Bhasmakulam, Bailey Bridge, Pandithavalam, Subway, Sharamkuthi, Charlamedu, and Swami Ayyappan Road almost round the clock. Prices fixed: The price of steel utensils has been fixed at Rs.300 per kg at Pamba and Rs.320 at Sannidhanam. For aluminium it is Rs.260 at Pamba and Rs.280 at

Sannidhanam. For bronze it is Rs.600 per kg at Pamba and Rs.63 at Sannidhanam, the District Collector has informed. Violators would be punished, he said.



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