



GOVT. OF KERALA

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

NOVEMBER

29

2018



PRESS RELEASE-1

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45 snakes have been captured and freed

This pilgrimage season so far, the Forest Officials have caught 45 snakes and freed all of them safely inside the forest. The department has said that no casualties in connection with snake bites were reported in Sannidhanam and nearby areas. An expert snake catcher is being used by the department. The department authorities have warned the devotees, employees, and workers to be cautious about the presence of snakes.

(PR-54)

Awareness class conducted for hotel workers

The Disaster Management Authority has conducted an awareness class for hotel workers at Sannidhanam. The Fire and Rescue department officials have led the class. They have explained to the workers the perils and dangers of using cooking gas in secluded places and what norm they have to be followed while during emergency. They have also given lessons to them in dousing fire using a fire extinguisher.

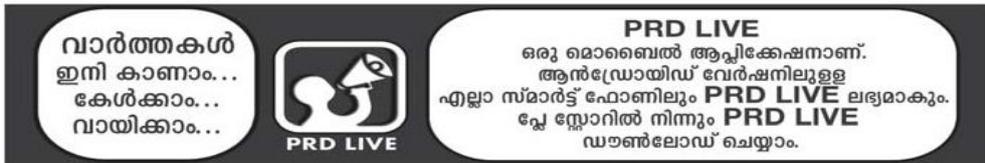
Fire and Safety department assistant station officer T Suresh, S Suresh, LFNC Anil Raj led the class.

(PR-55)

Fire and Rescue cleans holy steps and nearby places

The Fire and Rescue department on Thursday cleaned the holy steps and the nearby places. They have done as the place was dangerously slippery after the coconut filled with ghee was broken as part of the ritual here. The department special officer has inspected the area on the direction of the Sannidhana SP. The department has cleaned the area after the nada was closed.

(PR-56)



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Devaswom Board's duty to maintain peace and facilities at Sabarimala

The Travancore Devaswom Board is responsible to maintain peace and facilities for the Ayyappa devotees at Sabarimala, said A Padmakumar, Devaswom Board president on Thursday. He said that the Board has made all the arrangements for the smooth darsan for the devotees. He said this while interacting with the media at Sannidhanam. Padmakumar also said that the certain vested interest people are hatching stories against the Board and the Sabarimala, which is not true.

The facility to lay viri at Nilakkal has enhanced. Around 10,000 people can avail the facility there and by January this will be increased to 20,000. In accordance with the rush, other facilities will also be enhanced at Sabarimala, said him.

He said that it is the duty of the Police to maintain law and order at Sabarimala. Meeting has been already made with the DGP regarding the current restrictions at Sabarimala. He said that police are the authority who makes the security arrangements. Police and Government have the right to take certain decisions regarding the security and maintaining peace here based on the intelligence report.

President was vehement in criticizing those people who have made claims that Sabarimala lacks infrastructure. He rubbished these allegations. Meanwhile, the president also said that the current campaign of certain groups demanding devotees should keep away from offering kanikka (money and other offerings) to the temple is actually playing with the lives of some 6000 Devaswom Board employees. The temples under the Board is relying on Kanikka to meet the expenditure and salary of the Board employees. He also criticized those people who have given leadership in circulating the news that the Pandalam Royal family has started to sell Appam and Aravana. Since with the clarification from the family regarding this, the aim of the people was more revealed. They aim only monetary gain from this, said him.

(PR-57)

Food Safety department rolls out mobile lab for check

In keeping a tab on the hoteliers and preventing them from selling stale food to the devotees, the Food Safety department has rolled out a new mobile lab. The mobile lab has been made with Nilakkal and Erumely as the bases. The lab will check the food samples from the shops at these places and within 24 hours take necessary action against those sell stale food items.

The squads of the department have already inspecting the hotels and other eateries from Sannidhanam to Laha. Moreover, these squads are also checking the quality of the materials used in the Appam and Aravana. A special arrangement has been made at Sannidhanam for this.

The squad takes around 2000 food samples a day and take action with immediate effect. Those find faults were issued with notice and prevents from selling food items.

A junior research officer and a technical assistant are with the mobile lab. The department will expand the service of mobile labs to other districts once after the pilgrimage season ends.

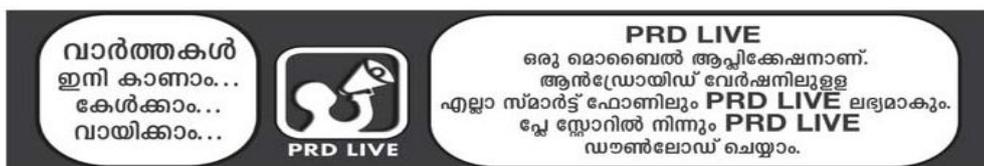
(PR-58)

Ranni and Kulanada panchayaths arrange everything for the devotees

Ranni and Kulanada panchayaths here have made everything intact for the devotees. Ranni is where the Sabarimala situated and a large number of devotees are coming here. The Panchayath has made all arrangements even before the pilgrimage season started. This has been done despite the panchayath has faced with severe destruction in the floods. The state government also has helped with Rs 5 lakh to make necessary arrangements. The edathavalams (resting places) have been equipped with bathrooms and other facilities. They turn the places to be a more devotee-friendly. The Perumbuzha Kadavu (river bank) which was destroyed in the flood was also repaired and two life guards were also posted. Devotees can use the kadavu for bathing. The street lights were also made available in the Thiruvabharana path.

Kulanada Grama Panchayath too did well in arranging facilities for the devotees. Rs 15 lakh was given by the state government. Since the Pandalam Royal Palace is situated here, arrangements have to made in prior. More number of devotees visit the place on a regular basis. Water, food, bathroom and other facilities have also been made here. The Panchayath is also spending from their funds to meet the demands of the devotees.

(PR-59)



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