



GOVT. OF KERALA

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

DECEMBER

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SABARIMALA PRESS RELEASE- 1

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Sabarimala pilgrimage under thick security

Devotees on Friday had darshan at Sabarimala on a heavy security.

Sannidhanam police special officer Dr. A Sreenivas said that the security arrangements have been made till Friday night and without hindering the rituals of the temple and devotees. Devotees crowded on the sidewalk step by step, step by step. Meanwhile, police have made restrictions to devotees in breaking the ghee-filled coconut at Sannidhanam. Devotees use the Neythoni on the left side of the Sanctum Sanctorum.

As part of its security, Police have strictly restricted the use of mobile phones. Police advise devotees to switch off mobile phones before you stepping on to the holy steps. Devotees can switch on their mobile phones only after temple visit.

Highpoints binocular used to monitor the surroundings. Black commandos are constantly on and off the scene.

The bomb squad inspected the sopanam and adjacent areas after temple was closed on Thursday night. Police have been deployed at all places where water is stored. Everywhere there is a special inspection of the fire force and the bomb squad.

The tractors are also checked at two points at Pampa and Marakkootam. Apart from the Kerala police, the NDRF and RAF central forces are on vigilante in Sannidhanam.

(PR-76)

Tamilnadu Information Center to help pilgrims

Tamilnadu Information Center at Sabarimala enters to its fifth year of operation to help pilgrims from Tamil Nadu. The Tamilnadu Information Center is working adjacent to the IPRD Media Center near Sridharma Shasta Auditorium at Sannidhanam. The Information Center is run by the Kanyakumari District Temples under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Apart from Sannidhanam, the information center operates in Theni, Madurai, Kumali, Kaliyikkavila and Tenkasi, during the Sabarimala Mandala-Makaravilakku pilgrimage. Two employees are employed in the office here at Sannidhanam.

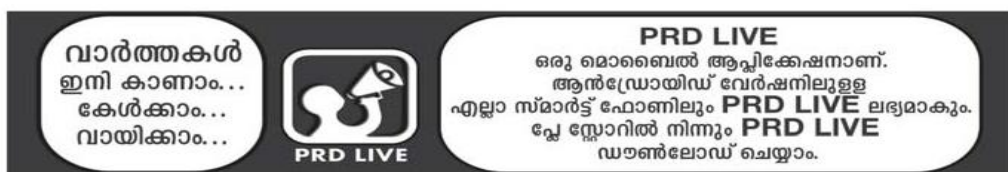
Functions of the Information Center include providing assistance to devotees for darshan and offerings, providing information on TNTC and KSRTC bus time and train time and also helps in providing arrangements to VIP visits. Employee of Kanyakumari District Temples S Satheesh Kumar, S Sandeep Kumar are working in the Information Center. Phone: +917358839969, +918531070571

(PR-77)

Commandos inspects the jungles of Sabarimala

Commandos of the Kerala police, who were specially trained by the National Security Guard, conducted a security check at Sabarimala Sannidhanam and in the insides of the Periyar Tiger Reserve. The inspection team was led by Commando Inspector VG Ajit Kumar. The raid was conducted as part of the tightened security at Sabarimala. Dividing into two teams that commandos had went for inspection inside the forest and various other parts of the Sannidhanam premises. A special team was also deployed at Sannidhanam. The security was enhanced on the recommendation of Special Officer of Police, Dr A Srinivas. A specially trained commando team of the NSG is taking guard of the temple. The inspector said the commando was equipped to deal with any quick situation.

(PR-78)





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The sale of Sabarimala so far is worth Rs 26.62 crore

During this pilgrimage season, Aravana has sold for Rs 26,62,06,040 in Sabarimala, said the Devaswom Executive Officer VS Rajendra Prasad. The sale of Appam is 3,90,38,405. The aravana plant at Sannidhanam produces two lakh tins of aravana daily. Rs 80 per tin. The 24-hour Aravana plant employs more than 250 people.

13.5 lakh tin cans and 2 lakh packets of appam are in stock. One lakh packets of appam are made a day in the two plants at Sannidhanam. The price of one packet of Appam is Rs 35.

(PR-79)

Pullumedu trail offers adventurous hiking to devotees

During this pilgrimage season, 5337 persons have travelled through the Pullumedu jungle trail to Sannidhanam. On Thursday alone, 389 pilgrims have taken the traditional jungle trail to Sannidhanam. However, the number of

people returning through the Pullumedu is comparatively low. According to the forest department, as of December 5, only 307 people have returned through Pullumedu after the darshan.

Pullumedu, the grassy slopes, is located at a distance of 14 km from Vandiperiyar. There is a jeep service to the Sathram. From there, the hike starts through the thick forest. Sannidhanam is about 12 hours from the Sathram. The hike takes the pilgrims through the thick forests with elephants and other wildlife. The forest department said that pilgrims would not be allowed to take the jungle trail from Sathram after 2 pm. It takes around five to six hours to reach Sannidhanam from the inn. This is because if a pilgrim leaves after 2 pm they will have to go through the forest at night. This increases the chance of danger and the Forest Officials will close the entry point at Sathram after 2 in the afternoon.

(PR-80)

