



**GOVT. OF KERALA**

**INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

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**SABARIMALA PRESS RELEASE- 1**

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## **Devaswom Board's Bookstores displays excellent collection**

The Travancore Devaswam Board's Bookstores at Sannidhanam are noted for their collection of books on spirituality, piety and temple rituals. The books and publications of Devaswom Board and private publishers are available here. There are four stalls at Sannidhanam and two at Pampa.

Devaswom Board's diary with a picture of Ayyappan is priced at Rs 150. The diary provides information on next month's pooja, dates and the date of Makara Vilakku. The Sridharmasastha Panchaksharamala is available in diary format in five languages. There are also important phone numbers of the various offices of Devaswom Board. A pocket diary that costs Rs 60 is also available. The Devaswom Board's calendar is priced at Rs 30.

The books 'The Temples of Travancore', published by the Devaswom Board in three volumes, and 'Ramayana' are in demand. The Devaswom Board publication Sannidhanam magazine is priced at Rs 20 and for a year is Rs 200. The lifetime subscription of the magazine is Rs 4,000. The bookstall also houses a collection of beautiful wall paintings titled Anjali. The authorities said that the sales went up by Rs 3 lakh compared to last year's sales.

(PR-88)

## Appam and Aravana will now available at Pampa

The Travancore Devaswom opened Appam and Aravana counters in Pampa. Three counters have started functioning near the Pampa Ganapathi temple. Appam and Aravana can be purchased at two counters by paying money and card can be used in a counter.

The Devaswom Board is planning to open more counters in the wake of the rush, said the Sabarimala executive officer. The next year onwards Board will make arrangements to book Appam and Aravana online. The number of existing counters has not been reduced in Sannidhanam, he said. The price of the goods is the same as in Pampa and Sannidhanam. A packet of Appam has priced Rs 35 and Aravana a tin costs Rs 80. A tin of ten Aravana costs Rs. 810. The main benefit of opening counters at Pampa is that devotees who wish to return with more Appam and Aravana can go down the hill without being burdened and can purchase sufficient quantity at the Pampa counters.

(PR-89)





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## **Swami Hastham Ambulance Service for Sabarimala Pilgrims**

*The project is jointly organized by the Kerala Police and the IMA*

Swami Hastham Ambulance Service for Sabarimala Pilgrims started at Sabarimala. The initiative is made at Sabarimala with the help of Kerala Police, Indian Medical Association, Ramesh Kumar Foundation and Private Ambulance Association under the leadership of the Trauma Rescue Initiative. The service of the ambulance was officially held at the SP office of Pathanamthitta. Travancore Devaswom Board president N Vasu inaugurated the initiative and Pathanamthitta District Police Chief Jayadev. G flagged off the ambulance service.

Swami Hastham ambulance was started for the smooth journey of the sick and the elderly to Sabarimala and vice versa. Around 50 ambulances will be available at Punalur, Kottarakkara, Adoor, Pandalam, Chengannur, Thiruvalla, Kottayam, Erumeli, Ranni, Pathanamthitta, Konni and Pampa. Those who need the service can book at their respective police stations or by calling the emergency ambulance number on 9188 100100.

Dr. Sreejith N Kumar, State Chairman, Trauma Rescue Initiative, presided the function. IMA District Chairman Dr. Bile Bhaskar, TRI State Coordinator Dr. John Panicker, IMA Pathanamthitta District President Dr. Thomas Mathew and representatives of private ambulance organizations such as KADTA and AODA were also present. Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran had earlier inaugurated the state-level program at Kanakakkunnu, Thiruvananthapuram.

(PR-90)

## Thrikarthaka: Sannidhanam brightened up in sea of lamps

Sannidhanam brightened up on the auspicious Karthika day in the month of Vrischikam. It was at dusk that the Karthika lamps were lighted. Once the lamp was illuminated in the Ayyapa's abode and other places, the devotees climbed the eighteen steps chanting the Sarana mantras. From the Festival Office and Information Center to the Koprakkalam, every corner of the Sannidhanam was washed in light from the traditional lamps. Devotees and employees of various departments take part in the initiative.

(PR-91)

