



GOVT. OF KERALA

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

JANUARY

19 2020



SABARIMALA PRESS RELEASE- 1

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Income at Vavar Nada during Makara Vilakku stands at Rs 3 lakhs

The income generated at Vavarnada during the Makara Villaku period stands at Rs 3,16,278. The income during the Mandala period was Rs 7,00,593. Only one-fourth of the income belongs to the Travancore Devaswom. The custodian of Vavar Nada is VS Abdul Rashid Musaliyar of the Mallapalli Vettiplak family. Seven members of the family are in charge of the rituals at Vavar Nada.

(PR-250)

Vavar Nada highlights communal harmony

The Vavar nada situated at Sannidhanam highlights the communal harmony of the Sabarimala temple. Vavaruswamy was a Muslim saint who became a devotee of Lord Ayyappan, according to legend. The devotees coming to Sabarimala first go seek prayers at the Vavaru nada here and only after that they proceed to the holy steps for seeing their Lord Ayyappa. The legend has it that the two-Vavar and Ayyappa- were close friends and had helped each other in their lives many times. This close friendship of the two belonging two different religions makes Sabarimala a most secular devotional place anywhere in the country.

It is also believed that the Vavar was a traditional healer and astrologer. In memory of this, the devotees here were given rice, jeera, pepper, cardamom, and

zingiber. The priests of this temple belong to the clan of Vavar and their right comes as an inheritance. The current priest V S Abdul Rasheed Musaliyar and he is the head of the Vettaplackal family of Malappally in Pathanamthitta. He sits beside the sword of Vavar and offers prayers and prasadams to devotees.

(PR-251)

The police are the guards for the pilgrims

Police compact arrangements have made the Sabarimala safer this season. There will be no pilgrims who do not have got the services of a policeman from Nilakkal to Sannidhanam. Such was the service rendered by the Kerala Police this season at Sabarimala. Along with the service of the staff, the functioning of the new generation security equipment has also been instrumental in facilitating this period. The Kerala Police has acquired the latest security equipment for use in the Sabarimala pilgrimage.

One of them is the minesweeper, which detects the presence of explosives, including mine, at a depth of two and a half meters below the earth. This American-made device is for military use. The Kerala Police bought 10 Mine Sweepers worth Rs 48 lakhs were for the purpose of Sabarimala. NLJD, security equipment, identifies if electrical wires have passed through the ground. The police system also includes powerful illuminated torches used for commando operations. The polite demeanor and assistance of the police has earned the admiration of devotees from other states as well.

(PR-252)

