



GOVT. OF KERALA

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

NOVEMBER

26

2019



PRESS RELEASE-1

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Sabarimala Pilgrimage: The Health Department ups the antenna

The state health department has been working 24 hours a day to address the health problems of Sabarimala pilgrims. These include five cardiology centers from Pampa to Sannidhanam, emergency medical centers operated with the help of the Pathanamthitta District Administration, all-terrain ambulances, and structures for emergency services. There is also a centralized hotline control room for coordination and communication. Medical Officer Prashob Enos, Dr. P ManojKumar and Dr. Jinu G. Thomas are heading the health care at Sannidhanam.

(PR-37)

The Cardiology Center saves 29 lives

Since the opening of Nada (Sanctum Sanctorum) on 17th this month, 34 devotees sought help at the Cardiology Center for cardiovascular problems. Five people in critical condition died. In 2017-18, 281 people had a heart attack. Of these, 36 died. Of the 173

patients treated in 2018-19, 24 died. On average, more than 200,000 people are treated per year for cardiac problems.

Nilakkal, Pampa, Neelimala, Appachimedu and Sannidhanam have been facilitated with Cardiology Centers ensuring the service of a cardiologist and a physician. Separate medical centers have also been set up in Charalmedu. In addition, the Pathanamthitta General Hospital will have the services of two cardiologists including Cathlabs. In addition to the cardiologist at the Pathanamthitta, Erumeli and Chengannur hospitals, the services of a physician, surgeon, orthopaedist, pediatrician, and assistant surgeon are also ensured.

These centers are equipped with primary care for those who are suffering from heart attacks during the hike to Sannidhanam. Two all-terrain ambulances are available 24 hours a day to transport patients. Pampa has two ALS sport ambulances and two portable ventilators. An ALS ambulance is also available for emergency service. The advantage of the ambulance is that four patients in critical condition can be taken to Pathanamthitta hospital simultaneously in it.

(PR-38)

All facilities made at the emergency medical centers

The District Administration and the Health Department Emergency medical centers have jointly set up from Pampa to Sannidhanam. There are 15 centers in the stretch. Emergency Medical Centers are set up in three locations from Pampa to Neelimala, two between Neelimala and Apachemedu, three between Apachemedu and Marakootam, one in the Q Complex, one in Saramkuthi, one in Vavernadu, one in Pandithavalam and one in Swami Ayyappan Road. Each EMC has two staff nurses and two trained Ayyappa Seva Sanghom volunteers. Three EMCs have been assigned a staff nurse as a supervisor. EMCs and Cardiology Centers are connected to the Pampa Controller via hotline. The service also features multi-lingual operators in a 24-hour control room. In the case of emergency, EMCs are coordinated through control centers. Ambulances, cardiac centers, and structure services are provided through the control room. The control room number is 04735 203232.

(PR-39)

Thirteen Ayyappans injured after a huge tree fell on them

Thirteen pilgrims were injured when a tree fell on top of a group of devotees returning from Sannidhanam at Marakkottam. Seven seriously injured persons have been

admitted to the Kottayam Medical College Hospital. Chittar Pulikuttunkal Abhirami (3), her father Anil Kumar (35), grandmother Santamma (65), Preman (36) from Tirur, Malappuram, Srinivas (50) from Nalgonda Kota, Telangana, , Andhra natives KM Satheesh (34), Rameshwar Rao (43), Ravi (30), Guruprasad (35), Tamil Nadu Mettur Street natives Raghupathi (40), Kumar (49), Rudramurthy (5) and Vadivel (49) were injured. Anil, Shanthamma, Abhirami, Srinivas, KM Satheesh, Rameshwar Rao and Ravi have been admitted to the Kottayam Medical College Hospital. The injured were shifted to the Kottayam Medical College Hospital after being treated at the Pampa Hospital.

(PR-40)

A 'divine' post office on the holy hillock

Sabarimala is itself is a unique place among many other devotional places in the country and this is the only place also has a post office where one can send letters addressed to god. The Indian President is the only individual in the country having a pin code of his own other than the Lord Ayyappa. Moreover, people come to this post office to send letters to make it as a souvenir of their remarkable pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Lord Ayyappa. Devotees regard it as a divine act to send letters from the Sabarimala post office which carries the unique seal of Lord Ayyappa. The posture of Lord Ayyappa sitting on a meditational mood is the seal that is imprinted on the letters sent from here.

It was in the year 1984 that the post office has started functioning.

Located atop the holy hillocks, the post office here gets a huge number of letters, money orders, marriage letters, housewarming letters and many other requests in letter form to the god Ayyappa.

The post office daily receives money orders from Rs 10 to Rs 5000 every day and this is handed over to the Executive Officer the same day, said the postmaster. Though the post office is open only during the Mandala-Makaravilakku festival, there are many things to do for this postmaster. This post has an instant money order, mobile recharging, and speed post services also. The officers and staff taking duty at Sabarimala are largely on this post office for recharge and other services. There are many takers for the instant money order service where one can receive money at the time it is posted.

On a day around 50 people will avail of this service from the Sannidhanam post office. Officers use this post office to return the lost and found goods to the addressees. Government officials observing duty at Sabarimala considers this post office as the

source for official communication. A large number of officers send and receive many official documents through the Sannidhanam post office.

(PR-41)

News of lizard in Aravana is false and untrue: Travancore Devaswom Board

The Travancore Devaswom Board said that the news of a lizard in Aravana is false and untrue. Pilgrimage is progressing smoothly and peacefully and the spread of this fake news is a deliberate attempt to topple it. Board president Adv.N. Vasu said the board had noticed the spread of false news from some centers and the spread of it on social media to discredit the offerings of Appam and Aravana at Sabarimala. The clean and safe way is used and that too with the help of modern technology to prepare Appam and Aravana. The plant is sterilized before the start of activities. The aravana is made at the highest temperature. Therefore, at any stage during the production of it, the chance of a lizard or moth cannot enter the aravana plant in any way. Moreover, it is after a rigorous inspection by the State Food Security Officers at the Aravana plant that the aravana tins are brought to the counter for sale.

The news is contradictory and false. The Board has already sought a comprehensive investigation by asking the State Police Chief to intervene in the issue. The president said he had filed a legal complaint against to find the source and individuals behind the fake news.

(PR-42)

Pilgrim dies at Sabarimala

A Pilgrim died near Neelimala in Sabarimala. The deceased has been identified as Matheshwaran (29), a resident of Annanagar, Tamil Nadu. He was pronounced dead at 6.10 am by the time he arrived at the hospital. It is unclear whether a heart attack is the cause of death. Sannidhanam Hospital sources said that the cause of death could be confirmed only after the post-mortem.

(PR-43)

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