Sacredness of the holy garden of Ayyappa should be preserved:
Chief Priest

Sabarimala: Sabarimala Chief Priest Areekara Sudheer Namboodiri said all Ayyappa devotees should try to preserve the sacred nature of the garden of Lord Ayyappa. It is very sad that animals are killed eating the neglected plastic leftovers. He asked the devotees to take care not to let this happen and preserve the holy abode of Sree Ayyappa.

(PR-169)

Homeopathy for Infectious Diseases

Sabarimala: The Medical Officer at the government Homeopathy hospital, Dr. S Abhilash said that the homeo hospitals in Sannidhanam and Pampa are equipped with effective medicines for communicable diseases. Devotees with symptoms should come to these hospitals for treatment. No cases of communicable diseases have been reported during Sabarimala pilgrimage so far, the medical charge officer said.

Thousands have been given the chickenpox vaccine under the special direction within ten days. Precautionary medicines also are given for the treatment of conjunctivitis and chickenpox.

Many pilgrims visit the hospital daily for treatment of various ailments.
Sannidhanam Hospital also has a nebulization facility for patients suffering from spasms and suffocation.

(PR-170)

**Video Wall installed to spread the message of 'Punyam Poonkavanam' Video Wall**

Sabarimala: To spread the message of 'Punyam Poonkavanam'; pilgrimage initiative aimed at responsible and conscious pilgrimage a video wall was installed at the Veliyanadapanthal in Sannidhanam. The video wall was switched on by the Travancore Devaswom Board President N. Vasu.

VS Rajendra Prasad, Executive Officer, Special Officer Sujith Das, ASO Sureshkumar, SP Viswanath, NDRF Deputy Commandant G Vijayan, RAF Deputy Commandant Nirmal, Ayyappa Seva Vice President Balan Swamy, Punyam Poonkavanam, former Coordinator Mohan Kumar and Coordinator Anilkumar were present on the occasion.

The 'Punyam Poonkavanam' project started in 2010-11 with the objective of eliminating waste, especially plastic, protecting the Pampa River, maintaining discipline and sowing the seeds of goodness. This was the idea behind the scheme envisaged by the current Administration IG P Vijayan IPS.

He was the Special Officer then. He suggested that Lord Ayyappa's abode is kept clean all times by those who work here and those who come for darshan in between 9 am to 10 am every day. Ayyappa's abode was divided into 14 zones, from Marakkoottam to Pandithavalam to make the programme function easily and properly. Pilgrims, RAF, NDRF, Police, Fire Force, Excise, Forest, KSEB, Health, Water Authority, Revenue, BSNL, Devaswom Board, Ayyappa Seva Sangh, Ayyappa Seva Samajam, etc and are all given duties to be part of the 'Punyam Poonkavanam'.

The project was well-received. When plastics and other waste are proliferating, it becomes a model project. Now, after eight years, the 'Punyam Poonkavanam' project has been gradually expanding. Apart from various parts of Kerala, it has its roots in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and New Delhi as well as in Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, and Malaysia.

The Prime Minister lauded the state government's unwavering support for the project. The journey through 22 states, covering 12000 km, to spread the message of the 'Punyam Poonkavanam' has attracted much attention.

(PR-171)
'Sudarshanam' helping the elderly and differently-abled to have a smooth darshan

Sabarimala: 'Sudarshanam; an initiative has provided support to the elderly and differently-abled to have a smooth darshan at Sabarimala. So far, these volunteers have helped 311 people. Sudarshanam Project provides services to the elderly and differently able by trained volunteers and translators. The students of the National Service Scheme and palliative activists from various colleges are serving the project.

The Sudarshanam project was launched this month under the aegis of the Department of Social Justice and the District Administration with the aim of reuniting elderly and differently-abled people getting lost in Sabarimala. The Sudarshanam scheme provides services with the help of trained volunteers and translators. Sudarshanam project provides the service of National Service Scheme volunteers and palliative activists from various colleges. In the meantime, Sudarshanam volunteers have become a helping hand for 3390 pilgrims who have struggled due to physical disabilities.

Many pilgrims have been provided medical care through the Emergency Medical Center. The Sudarshanam rest house in Pampa has served 585 pilgrims so far. Special assistance was provided to 271 pilgrims who had to struggle in the queue for darshan. Sudarshanam Information Counter has been started in Pampa and Nilakkal. Bilingual services were also provided there. As a part of the project, the Forest Department has made arrangements for seating facilities in the forest areas.

District Probation Officer AO Abeen has testified that the Sudarshanam project is very comforting for Ayyappa pilgrims who come from other states. Sudarshanam is being implemented by the District Probation Office with the support of Devaswom Board, Health Department, Forest Department, and Police Departments.

(PR-172)
Action against Unsafe Hotels; Rs 110000 fined

Sabarimala: A squad led by Sannidhanam Duty Magistrate Anil Kumar has been fined Rs. 1,11,000 after if found some irregularities in some hotels and eateries and unhygienic. The raids were conducted at Charalmedu Junction and Marakkootam - Saramkuthi Road from Thursday morning.

Legal Metrology, Revenue, Excise departments have also cooperated in the raid conducted by the Duty Magistrate.

(PR-172)