

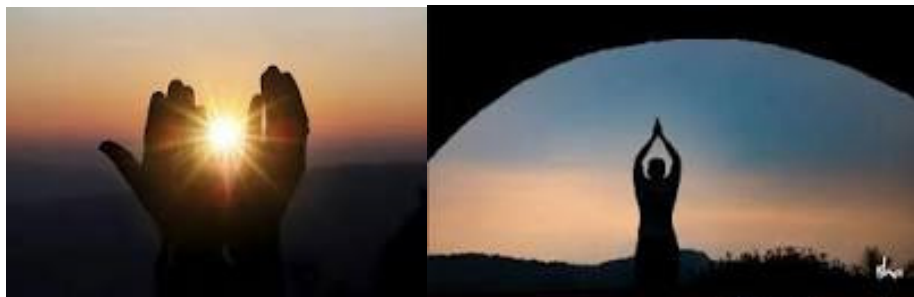
4	Monday	25 March	12 Meenam
5	Sunday	21 April	08 Medam
6	Saturday	18 May	04 Edavam
7	Saturday	15 June	01 Mithunam
8	Friday	12 July	28 Mithunam
9	Thursday	08 August	24 Karkadakam
10	Wednesday	04 September	19 Chingam-1200
11	Wednesday	02 October	16 Kanni
12	Tuesday	29 October	13 Thulam
13	Monday	25 November	10 Vrischikam
14	Monday	22 December	07 Dhanu

DAILY POOJA TIMINGS
(During all days when the Temple is Opened)

Particulars	Normal Period	Pilgrimage Season
Opening of Sreekovil	5.00 a.m.	3.00 a.m.
Nirmalya darshanam	5.05 a.m.	3.05 a.m.
Ganapati homam	5.30 a.m.	3.30 a.m.
Neyyabhishekam	5.15 a.m. to 6.45 a.m	3.15 a.m. to 6.45 a.m
Usha pooja	7.30 a.m.	7.30 a.m.
Udayasthamana Pooja	8.00 am	Normally Nil
Neyyabhishekam	9.00 a.m. to 11.15 a.m	8.00 a.m. to 11.15 a.m
Ucha pooja	12.00 p.m.	12.00 p.m.
Closing of Sreekovil	1.00 p.m.	1.00 p.m.
Opening of Sreekovil	5.00 p.m.	4.00 p.m.
Deeparadhana	6.30 p.m.	6.30 p.m.
Pushpabhishekam	6.45 p.m. to 9.00 pm	6.45 p.m. to 9.00 pm
Padi pooja	7.00 pm	Nil
Athazha pooja	9.15 p.m.	9.15 p.m.
Harivarasanam	9.55 p.m.	10.55 p.m.
Closing of Sreekovil	10.00 p.m.	11.00 p.m.

- **Sreekovil means Sanctum Sanctorum (Garbha Gruha).**
- **Timings are indicative, given only for general guidance. These may change depending on local needs. Kindly verify with temple authorities directly.**

BRAHMAMUHURTAM - MANDALAVRUTAM



Brahmamuhurta or the last quarter of the night before dawn. The sages had found out that at this time the possibility of becoming Brahman or the Creator itself is more. This is the time for us to shape our lives the way we want them to be.

The Time of Brahma Muhurta:

1 (one) minute = 2.5 Vinazhika. 1 hour = 2.5 Nazhika.

1 day = 1 day-light + 1 night = 24 hours = 60 hours.
30 days = 1 month. 360 days = 12 months consisting of
Uttarayana Kalam and Dakshinayana Kalam of 6 months
each = 1 year.

According to another chronology: A day is divided into
8 Yaamas. 1 yaamam = 7.5 Nazhika = 3 hours. 4 yaamas
during the day and 4 yaamas at night. The fourth yaamam
of the night i.e. 3 hours from around 3.30 am to sunrise is
known as the sacred Brahma Muhurta.

Sadhguru (Jaggivasudev) explains: What happens in
brahma muhurtham...

Due to the nature of the Earth's relationship with the Sun
and the Moon during this time, certain physical changes
occur in humans (and in other living beings) - even the
excreta of the body - for example, urine has been found by
modern medicine to have certain good properties during
these times.

A lot of research has been done on this. The production
of melatonin from the pineal gland takes place at this time
and the whole body is in a favorable condition. Since this is
the time when the pineal gland produces maximum mela-
tonin, we should make the most of the Brahma Muhurta,
as this is the time when we can stabilize ourselves.

'You are well' means that there are no fluctuations in
your mind. In brahma muhurta one can attain healing
very easily. Modern medicine says that melatonin helps
with emotional stability.

'Ashtangahrudaya', a book on Ayurveda, states that
waking up in Brahma Muhurta prolongs one's life and
helps ward off diseases. Brahma means knowledge and
Muhurta means duration. Brahma Muhurtam is the
perfect time to acquire knowledge. According to the
'International Journal of Yoga and Allied Sciences', there
is more oxygen in the air during the pre-dawn hours. This
new oxygen readily combines with hemoglobin to form
oxyhemoglobin, which has the following benefits: Boosts
immunity. Increases energy levels. Helps to maintain
blood pH balance. Relieves pain, numbness and soreness.
Improves absorption of minerals and vitamins.

If you get up and do spiritual saadhana at this time,
you will get the most benefit. Brahma Muhurta means the
time of the Creator. It is time for us to reinvent ourselves.
Let us become Brahman ourselves early in the morning,
otherwise you can create yourself as you wish.

MANDALAVRUTHAM:

The chronology explained earlier is related to humans.
According to the deity concept, a human year is only one
day for the gods. Half year of human - Uttarayana pe-
riod (Makaram month to Mithunam/Gemini) according
to Malayalam year chronology) Day of God and next
half year - Dakshinayana period (Karkatakam/Cancer
to Dhanu/Sagittarius) night. The Uttarayana period, the
day time of the gods, is considered the most auspicious
for human beings for good deeds. (Bhishma lied down on

Sharashayya/bed of arrows till the initiation of Uttarayana for ascension/enter heaven).

If the final yaamam (quarter of the night) of human night is the Brahmamuhurta, the last quarter of night of the gods – the last part of the Dakshinayana period, i.e. roughly the Vrischikam/ Scorpio and Dhanu/Sagittarius months, divine Brahmamuhurta is counted similarly. Out of this, 41 days from Scorpio 1 is known as ‘Mandalakaalam’.

Another interpretation: There are two types of calendars in use, mainly based on the sun and the moon. Solar calendar and lunar calendar. According to the solar calendar, there are 365 days in a year and according to the lunar calendar, $12 \times 27 = 324$ days. The difference between these $365 - 324 = 41$ days is considered as the divine mandala period.

Sabarimala pilgrims observe vrutham/fast as this mandala period is regarded as the best for God-oriented good deeds, equal to the Brahma Muhurta. Mandala-vrutham is a fast performed with devotion according to Guruswami’s instructions to cultivate/prepare our body and mind for the purpose of ‘seeing Swami, we will get salvation’ - as we chant one of the many sharanamantras. Get up at Brahma Muhurtham, bathe, purify yourself and worship Swami with sharanamantras, Ishwara Bhajan. (It is recommended to take a bath in the temple pond and visit the temple, if possible). Abstaining from all vices, eating only vegetarian light food. Only good words and good thoughts. Whenever you do any work, you do it as an offering to God with the thought of God. Bathing in the evening, as done in the morning, with sharanamantras, Swami Bhajan. Observe complete celibacy during the Vratham. Use as much time as possible for God’s thought, Bhajan, read and hear more about God... As days pass, gradually our mind will feel more peace and happiness.. Proceeding in this way, after vrutham/fasting for 41 days, reaching that most sacred Sabarimala Sannidhanam and seeing Sabarishan that our jeevathma merges with Paramathma...

The devotee who comes back after visiting /darshanam of Swami, becomes a new person who can lead a new life as a perfect sattvic, enjoying peace of mind and happiness in life.

Swamiye Sharanmayyappa..!

P. Shanmuganandan

SABARIMALA AND ME -PART 5

(Shree. Madhu Kadampuzha,
Spiritual Speaker, 9846982600)



GURUSWAMI

Guru is the Truth that controls the rhythm of minds. We don’t have to find it, it just comes to us. Guru is the light that replaces the darkness and gives heaven. Guruswami

should always be the guide. Be a beacon of pure order. The one who gives the power of refuge/Sharanam to troubled thoughts. We should be able to keep our thoughts in the spiritual stream. He should be a follower of dharmic values. An atheist can never become a guruswami. Bad habits should not exist in life. Guruswami should be a person who shows a straight path, should be able to impart the message of Tattvamasi.

KNOTTING OF IRUMUDI/KETTUNIRA

Acharyas have said that you should not go to Sabarimala by filling/ tying the Irumudi yourself, but you should fill it through a Guruswami. Sabarimala Pilgrimage should be done with the group consisting of Guruswami. Guruswami is considered to be the person who tread the mountain /conducted Pilgrimage the most times in the group.

A person who completed pilgrimage eight times can also be considered a Guruswami. It is the Guruswami's right to obtain Gurudakshina. But the Dakshina should never be asked. After getting Dakshina, one should not count the money so received. It is preferred that an 'Ayyappan' should give Dakshina to Guruswami eight times.

1. When wearing the sacred necklace/ mudra-maala dhaaran.
2. When wearing black dress.
3. When performing petta- thullal.
4. When starting the forest journey.
5. When retrieving the stone dedicated to Guruswami which was dipped in water at Azhutha river.
6. When supporting the Ayyappa to keep Irumudi on head at pamba.
7. When coming down the mountain after darshan.
8. When removing the sacred necklace /mudra-maala.

These are the eight cases prescribed for giving Dakshina.

Betel leaf, paak (arecanut) and some money are customary in Dakshina. The betel leaf taken to give the Dakshina signifies the Trimurti Swarupa, and the paak and money signify the Lakshmi Swarupa in it. Dakshina should be given by holding tail of the betel leaf pointing towards the person giving Dakshina. This allows to transfer the virtue from the Pujari to us.

No swami can become Guruswami by the criteria of completion of 10 to 18 years of pilgrimage and so on. A Guruswami should be admirable and exemplary in every respect. He should have a good knowledge of the vratas to be followed for Sabarimala pilgrimage, the kettunira and the materials required for it, the rituals of the Sabarimala temple and he should teach other swamis to follow these. 'Swami-life' is a blissful state, wherein the swami keeps away all other thoughts and move forward with the thoughts of spirituality. Spiritual path, the Supreme path. Guru Swami should be able to reveal that path to the swami, a path filled with Dharma-chinta, mercy and utmost devotion

AYYAN’S DARSAN IS HOLY DARSAN!!!

[Smt. Geeta Pisharodi, who writes under the pen name ‘Vaika’, is a teacher and member of the SASS Gujarat State Committee.]

It can be said that the sacred place where the Devotee and Bhagawan come together regardless of name and caste and creed can be seen nowhere else than Sabarimala. The satisfaction of going to see Ayyan through the thick forest with huge trees that are as tall as sky, with chants of swami saranam is something else.



As for the science behind exhaling out loud, especially while climbing, is getting more air and refreshing. The Swami Saranam chant eliminates everything that obstructs the smooth flow of air within the human body. There are many rules to be followed after wearing the sacred maala-mudra. All these are to eliminate the ‘evils’ that are filled in man and revive the ‘good ones’. Wearing maala on Saturday or on Uthram day is more auspicious. It is believed that the Guru-mantra should be recited while wearing the maala. That ‘guru mantra’ is like this..

**“Jnaanamudraam Shaastramudraam Gurumudraam
 Namaamyaham,**

**Vanamudraam Shuddamudraam Rudramudraam
 Namaamyaham;**

**Shanmudraam Sathyamudraam Vratamudraam
 Namaamyaham,**

**Sabaryaashrama Satyena Mudrampaathu
 Sadaapimem.**

**Gurudakshinaya poorvam Tasyanugraha kaarane,
 Sharanaagatha Mudrakhyam Tanmudram
 Dharayaamyaham.**

**Sabaryachala Mudrayai Namastubhyam namonamah...
 Swami Sharanam and Ayyappa Sharanam.”**

The one who recites the mantra and wears the maala-mudra, follows the rituals with purity, ties the knot/Irumudi and able to trek the forest!, with the chanting of SwamiSaranam, and is able to get the darshan of Aiyen!!!, is all due to boons earned in the previous janmam - mujjanma sukrutam!!

- vaika -

SHANKARACHARYA SWAMI NISHCHALANANDA OF PURI

In the picture, Shankaracharya Swami Nishchalananda of Puri is waiting for a train at Prayagraj railway station.

Let’s get to know Swamiji. ISRO frequently takes their consultancy help from Swamiji. American space

agency has also taken Swamiji's consultancy. His name is also written in the advisory committee.



He has solved problems with the help of Vedic Maths on how the World Bank should accept his help and how to solve financial problems.

Mathematicians from Oxford and Cambridge engage Swamiji's services. IITs and IISCs in India are also in touch with him. This sage has a very simple life. He has written many classical books. The wisdom of our ancestors are revealed from Swamiji's services. Below given is a very brief introduction to Swamiji.

Bhagavatpada Adi Shankaracharya established the Govardhana Peetha at Jagannath Puri on the Kartika Shukla Panchami of Yudhishtira Saka Samvat 2651 or 486 BC. The Puri Peeth is related to Rig Veda. Its main preaching theme or Mahavakya is प्रज्ञानं ब्रम्ह (Prajananm Brahma). There's an unbroken chain of Shankaracharyas from 2489 years. One hundred and forty four Shankaracharyas have already graced the Peeth already. The Peeth of eastern direction at Puri is now graced by Jagad-guru Shankaracharya Nischalananda Saraswati-ji Maharaj as its 145th Sankaracharya. He was appointed to this Peeth as its head by the Shankaracharya Swami Niranjanadeva Tirtha Maharaj on 9th February 1992 (Vikram Samvat 2048).

The current Shankaracharya of Puri Peeth, Swami Sri Nischalananda Saraswati-ji Maharaj was born on 30th June 1943 in a village called Haripur Bakshi Tol in the Madhubani district of Bihar. His father was Pandit Sri Lalvamshi Jha and his mother was Smt Gita Devi. His father was a high-ranking scholar of Sanskrit in the Mithila tradition and was a court vidwan of the then king of Mithila (Darbhanga Kingdom). The Swami's previous name was Nilambar, given by his elder brother Pandit Sridev Jha. In his childhood Nilambar was bestowed with amazing character and was very studious and intelligent as well. At age 17, he left his home and started in pursuit of his life journey.

He studied the Vedas and various branches related to Vedas very seriously at various places like Kashi, Vrindavan, Naimisharanya, Badrikashram, Rishikesh, Haridwar, Puri, Sringeri etc. He fought hard against atrocities on cows considered a symbol of faith among

Hindus while participating actively in Dharma Samrat Karpatriji Maharaj's agitation for cow protection. He was kept in the Tihar jail from 9th November 1966 for 52 days for advocating cow protection. He accepted the sanyasa order from the lotus palms of Swami Sri Karpatriji Maharaj on Vaisakha Krishna Ekadashi of Samvat 2031, 18th April 1974 in Haridwar. Swami Sri Karpatriji Maharaj initiated him into the sanyasa order under the new name Nischalananda Saraswati. Impressed by his talents, brilliance, dedication towards sanatana dharma and utmost faith in his gurus, Shankaracharya Swami Sri Niranjanadev Tirtha ji Maharaj anointed him the 145th Shankaracharya of the Govardhana Peetha at Puri.

The Shankaracharya of Puri has been travelling far and wide across India like the first guru Adi Shankaracharya to protect sanatana dharma, its values and glories. He has been addressing concerns on unity of India, protection of its territories, cow protection, women empowerment, environment protection as well as on the context of multinational companies in India by his discourses. The intellectuals of this country have been associated with him. A wave of transformation that potentially provides a new direction to the nation has been triggered. He has also set up two organizations Aditya Vahini and Ananda Vahini under the aegis of 'Peeth Parishad' with the objectives of creating an intelligent, self-reliant society, protecting values, securing the nation and its unity. Through these two organizations, he is spearheading a nationwide campaign to protect the ancient culture of our country.

BHAGAWAT GITA

(Chapter 2 – SANKHYA YOGA) Slokas: (56-60)



दुःखेष्वनुद्विग्नमनाः सुखेषु विगतस्पृहः ।
वीतरागभयक्रोधः स्थितधीर्मुनिरुच्यते ॥ 56॥

duḥkheṣhv-anudvigna-manāḥ sukheṣhu vigata-sprīhaḥ
vīta-rāga-bhaya-krodhaḥ sthita-dhīr munir uchyate

One whose mind remains undisturbed amidst misery, who does not crave for pleasure, and who is free from attachment, fear, and anger, is called a sage of steady wisdom.

यः सर्वत्रानभिस्नेहस्तत्तत्प्राप्य शुभाशुभम् ।
नाभिनन्दति न द्वेष्टि तस्य प्रज्ञा प्रतिष्ठिता ॥ 57॥

yaḥ sarvatrānabhisnehas tat tat prāpya śhubhāśhubham
nābhinandati na dveṣṭi tasya prajñā pratiṣṭhitā
One who remains unattached under all conditions, and is
neither delighted by good fortune nor dejected by tribu-
lation, he is a sage with perfect knowledge.

यदा संहरते चायं कूर्मोऽङ्गानीव सर्वशः ।
इन्द्रियाणीन्द्रियार्थेभ्यस्तस्य प्रज्ञा प्रतिष्ठिता ॥ 58॥

yadā sanharate chāyaṁ kūrmo 'ṅgānīva sarvaśhaḥ
indriyāṇīndriyārthebhyas tasya prajñā pratiṣṭhitā
One who is able to withdraw the senses from their
objects, just as a tortoise withdraws its limbs into its shell,
is established in divine wisdom.

विषया विनिवर्तन्ते निराहारस्य देहिनः ।
रसवर्जं रसोऽप्यस्य परं दृष्ट्वा निवर्तते ॥ 59॥

viṣhayā vinivartante nirāhārasya dehinaḥ
rasa-varjaṁ raso 'pyasya paraṁ dṛiṣṭvā nivartate
Aspirants may restrain the senses from their objects of
enjoyment, but the taste for the sense objects remains.
However, even this taste ceases for those who realizes the
Supreme.

यततो ह्यपि कौन्तेय पुरुषस्य विपश्चितः ।
इन्द्रियाणि प्रमाथीनि हरन्ति प्रसभं मनः ॥ 60॥

yatato hyapi kaunteya puruṣhasya vipaśchitaḥ
indriyāṇi pramāthīni haranti prasabhaṁ manaḥ
The senses are so strong and turbulent, O son of Kunti,
that they can forcibly carry away the mind even of a
person endowed with discrimination who practices
self-control.

(To be continued)

Subhashitham – 48

ददाति प्रतिगृह्णाति गुह्यमाख्याति पृच्छति ।
भुङ्क्ते भोजयते चैव षड्विधं प्रीतिलक्षणम् ॥

Dadadi prathigruhnathi
guhyamaakhyadi pruchathy,
Bhoongthe bhojayathe chaiva
shadvidham preethilakshanam.

Meaning : ददाति - giving, प्रतिगृह्णाति - accepting, गुह्यम् -
secret, आख्याति - telling, पृच्छति - asking, भुङ्क्ते - eating,
भोजयते - feeding, च - and, एव - certainly, षड्विधम् - six
ways, प्रीतिलक्षणम् - features of love.

Explanation: Giving and taking, exchanging secrets (tell-
ing and hearing), eating together, and giving food are six
features of love. Though everyone loves someone, seldom
does a person show them, openly which is a significant
drawback of today's world. We can observe this short-
age even between parents and their children. Giving is
more important than taking; we must give more in return
whatever we take. Similarly, one might show great inter-
est in listening to other people's secrets but not sharing
their own affairs. Such one-sided dealings are not suitable

to maintain healthy relations. To nurture and strengthen love, all the people involved should actively and carefully take care of the relations and maintain equality in their conduct.

QUIZ – 33

(Note: Questions are related to Sanatana Dharma and mainly based on matters published in our Ayyappa Vani. Answers will be published in the next Ayyappa Vani. Any body can send answers in whatsapp to No.9447211722, within 20 days. Names & addresses of persons who answer to all questions correctly will be published in the next Ayyappa Vani).

Questions:

1. What is the meaning of the Sanskrit word Ritvik?
2. Which ancient Hindu Text describes about gravitational force?
3. Which is the Shastra dealing with breath analysis?
4. Which is called Karma Bhumi where people can strive to get out of the shackles of karma and attain moksha?
5. Who is the chief deity in Mudgala Puranam?
6. Who is the current Shankaracharya of Puri Peeth ?
7. As per Subhashitham what are the six features of love?
8. What is meant by Yaama and Brahmamuhurta in the Hindu system of period of Time ?
9. The proposed date of installation of Lord Ram's Idol in Ayodhya Mandir?
10. Which river flows in Sabarimala?

Answers of Quiz : 32

1. Brahmashree Mahesh P. N. is Sabarimala Temple Melsanthi and Brahmashree Murali P.G. is Malikapuram Temple Melsanthi for the coming year starting from first day of Vrischikam.
2. The temple of Mohini - Harikanyaka is located at Ariyannur, 5 km near to Guruvayur Temple in Kerala.
3. The present Sarsangachalak (Head) of RSS is Dr. Mohan Bhagavath.
4. The Vishnusahasranamam was recited by Bhishma, lying down on a bed of arrows - sarasayya- to Yudishtira while Sri Krishna himself listened to it and was retold by Vyasa. It was about 5000 years ago during the Mahabharata war at Kurukshetra.
5. Lord Shrikrishna is known as Chakrapani as he holds Sudarsana Chakra. The Sudarshana Chakra is generally portrayed on the right rear hand of the four hands of Vishnu, who also holds the Panchajanya (conch), the Kaumodaki (mace), and the Padma (lotus).
6. Swan is the vehicle of Lord Brahma.
7. National Unity Day (Rāshtrīya Ektā Divas) is celebrated in India on 31 October. The day is celebrated (since 2014) to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel who had a major role in the political integration of India.
8. Indra was the father of Matsarasura, whom Lord

Ganesha killed in his Vakrathunda avatara.

9. Shree Chithira Attavishesham (November 11) marks the birth anniversary celebration of Shree Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma (1912-91), the head of Travancore royal family.
10. Mandala Puja will be performed on 27th December 2023 (Dhanu 11th) and Makarajyothy will be seen on 15th January 2024 (Makaram 1st)

Names of persons who gave correct answers to all questions:

NIL

NEWS

*Today, 06th December 2023 Utram - Swami Ayyappan's birth star auspicious day. Under the auspices of SASS, Ayyappa devotees from all over the world perform Utram Puja in their own homes and nearby temples.

***AYYAPPA SEVA KENDRAM (ASK) - Annadanam Kendrams.** As decided by the Central Annadanam Committee, ASKs – Annadana Kendrams have been opened at various centres in and outside Kerala recently for various services to the Ayyappas – pilgrims enroute Sabarimala during the Mandala- Makaravilakku season. Details of some of the ASKs are given below:

- Ayyappa Seva Kendram at Sannidhanam provides 24 hrs medicated drinking water supply, informations, swach – cleaning of the sannidhanam area etc.

- ASK at SASS building, adjacent to the Erumely Dharma-sastha Temple, provides Annadanam. SASS Konkan State is managing the service activities here.

- ASK Vizhikkithodu, 8 km near to Erumely on Ponkunnam-Erumely route, inaugurated by Swami Satswaroopanandaji and with speech by Sri. Vidyasagar Gurumurthy.

- ASK at Pathanamthitta Edathavalam, inaugurated by State President Shri. Akkiranman Kalidasan Bhattathiripad.

- ASK Thiruvananthapuram Padmanabhaswamy Temple - inaugurated by Shri. S.Nandakumar (IAS, Ex.District Collector) in the presence of Patron of SASS and senior RSS Pracharak Manya S. Sethumadhavan.

- ASK Chengannur Railway station: Information Centre – help desk at Chengannur Railway Station, inaugurated by Shri. K. Surendran, BJP Kerala State President.

- ASK at Thadangam, Krishnagiri- Salem National Highway, managed by Uttara TN.

- ASK Thriprayar, Thrissur District, near to the Thriprayar Sreerama Swamy Temple.

- ASK Kadakurissi Ayyappankavu, Kannanur, N.H.Road Kannadi, Palakkad Dist.

- ASK Chamravattam Ayyappa Temple, Malappuram District.

- ASK National Highway Dharmapuri, UTN

-ASK Walayar, near Coimbatore, Dakshin TN

- ASK Ramamangalam, Kolenchery, Muvattupuzha at the Narasimha Temple premises.

-ASK at Koyilandy, Kozhikode.

- ASK at Pantheerankavu, N.H.Road, Kozhikkode
- ASK at Puliয়ারai, Shencottai, DTN.
- ASK at Koonamkara, Pathanamthitta.
- ASK at Kalaketty in the Karimala trekking route. (Opening Shortly)

***PROTEST against removal of ASK at Kodungallur.** The state committee of Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam strongly protested against the demolition of the Ayyappa Seva Kendram, which has been jointly run by various devotees' organizations, including SASS, at the Kodungallur temple complex, on 21st November in the middle of the night, by the State Government, in a heavy police presence. Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam will take the lead in organizing all Hindus for the protection of dharma, strongly opposing the evil actions against Hindu temples especially Sabarimala pilgrims, of this anti-Hindu government - President Shri. Akkiranman Kalidasan Bhattathiripad and General Secretary Shri. Murali Kolangad stated in the press report.

*** A special Puja - Yajna** was conducted at the SASS Erumely building on 8th & 9th November for the welfare of all and for the smooth flow of current year Sabarimala Pilgrimage without any accidents or casualties. Further, the Yajna was organised to better the works of Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam with blessings from Kaliyuga varadan Swami Ayyappan and all other gods and goddesses The special Homam and Puja were performed under the divine patronage of Brahmashree Mullappalli Krishnan Namboodiri assisted by Akkiranman Kalidasan Bhattathirippad and Lalprasad Bhattathirippad, coordinated by Swami Ayyappadas, in the presence of, among others, national/state level karyakarthas viz. Sarvasri. N. Rajan, V. K. Viswanathan, S. Vinodkumar, Murali Kolangad, etc.

***SASS Thrissur District Committee in Kerala**, along with various Hindu Organisations conducted 13th Hindu Dharma Parishad & Sakthan Ayyappan Vilakku for 3 days - on 1, 2 and 3 December 2023. The program included seminars, Poojas, special programs on Harivarasanam Centenary Celebrations etc. On the 2nd day Shri. J. Nandakumar, National Convenor of Prajna Pravah addressed the main convention. Prof (Rtd). M.V. Natesan, Swami Ayyappadas, Sri. V. K. Viswanathan, Sri. K. Kittu Nair, Sri. P. S. Raghunath, Sri. Murali Kolangad etc. were some of the patrons and main organisers. A grand traditional 'Ayyappan Vilakku' was also performed with divine rituals, accompanied by procession - Vilakku Ezhunellippu with caparisoned elephants, 'panchavadyam', 'Udukku pattu', 'Chindu vadyam ' etc. on the night of the last day.

***Sabarimala Pilgrimage from Gujarat** was organized second year in running by SASS Gujarat team. First team of pilgrims completed their pilgrimage in the first week of Mandala season, visiting many temples enroute and finally divya darsanam at Sannidhanam. The second team started on 27 November and returned on 3rd December visiting 23 temples and Sannidhanam. The groups of pilgrims comprised of devotees from north Bharath also. Both the pilgrimages were coordinated by Shri. C. Prabhakaran and Sri. S. Lekshminarayanan, National Secretaries of SASS.



“Gujarat - Sabarimala Pilgrimage team at Paramekkavu temple, Thrissur on the way to Sabarimala”.

***SASS Kerala State conducted Ayyappa Mahasangamam and Guruswamy Sangamam, annual programme, on 26th November, 2023 at Nirvilakam Dharmasaastha Temple Auditorium, Aranmula, Pathanamthitta District, commenced with hoisting of SASS flag by Shri. Anilkumar, (Rtd. SP) and Reception Committee Chairman. The programme was blessed by Pujya Swami Sat-Swaroopananda Saraswathi, ex-melsanthis of Sabarimala-Maliakappuram temples, senior guruwamies and devotees connected to various rituals at Sabaraimala temple. Brahmashree Akkeeraman Kalidasan Bhattathirippad, State President chaired the convention, inaugurated by Shri. Sasikumar Varma of Pandalam Palace and Shri. Erode Rajan, National General Secretary made the keynote address. Senior karyakarthas of SASS – Swami Ayyappadas, Sarvasree. V. K. Viswanathan, (Trustees), M.K. Aravindakshan, Zonal General Secretary etc. participated. New State Office bearers: President: Akkeeraman Kalidasan Bhattathirippad, Working President: Swamy Ayyappadas, General Secretary: Murali Kolangad, Joint Gen.Secretary, Adv. Jayan Cheruvallil, Treasurer: Narayanan. G**



OPENING / CLOSING dates of SABARIMALA TEMPLE during the next 27 days.

MANDALA POOJA season : commenced by Opening of the temple on 16th November 2023 at 5 pm and closes at 11 pm on 27th December.

MAKARAVILAKKU season: Opening at 5 pm on 30th December 2023 and closing at 6 am on 20th January 2024.

MAKARAJYOTHI DARSAN ON 15th JANUARY 2024 EVENING.

Disclaimer : The opinions expressed in this publication are of the authors only and do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of SASS or its members.

Published by P Shanmuganandan, National Administrative Secretary from National Administration Office, Ayyappa Vihar, Viyyur, Thrissur, Kerala - 680010 on behalf of Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam