

Heavy rush for past two days

The holy hillock of Sabarimala has been witnessing heavy rush for the past two days as hundreds of devotees from different parts of south India undertook their annual pilgrimage in the weekend.

The pilgrims had to wait for hours together inside the thickly packed barricades on the trekking path and at the Valiya Nadappanthal to ascend the holy 18 steps leading to the Ayyappa temple.

Workers of the Travancore Devaswom Board and the Ayyappa Seva Sanghom volunteers served the pilgrims waiting inside the barricades with medicated drinking water and biscuits.

The pilgrim movement on the Sathram-Pulmedu route was on the rise during the past one week, according to official sources. The pilgrim flow to Sabarimala through the Pulmedu route has considerably increased in the last lap of the 41-day Mandalam pilgrim season.

The KSRTC has started special services up to Vandipperiyaar-Sathram from Kumily. The pilgrims reach the Sannidhanam treading this 12-km forest path cutting across the Pulmedu-Paandithavalam forest tracts. The Forest Department has restricted pilgrim movement through the forest during the night hours.