

## **Near-stampede situation at Sabarimala**

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: The holy hillock of Sabarimala witnessed a near-stampede situation on Tuesday.

Three persons were seriously injured and several others sustained minor injuries in the rush of pilgrims when the police released the pilgrims blocked inside a thickly-packed barricade by pulling the rope in front of the forest office near the Valiya Nadappanthal.

A 24-year-old pilgrim from Andhra Pradesh, Sreenivasan, has been admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital at Kottayam with serious injuries while two others, Thulaseedharan, 50, from Pattazhy and a six-year-old girl, Anamika from Kottayam, have sustained injuries to their limbs, according to the government hospital sources at Sabarimala.

The pilgrims who have suffered minor injuries were given first aid at the government hospital.

Sabarimala has been witnessing heavy rush for the past three days with an increase in the flow of pilgrims from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in the last lap of the Mandalam season. The pilgrim flow from Tamil Nadu was lean in the first half of the pilgrim season due to the floods there.