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## Message FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Priya Bandhu, Swami saranam....!

At a time when there is being felt greater need for understanding more and more about Ayyappa dharma /Sanathana dharma, this web-news magazine will be appearing as a boon.

You have the first issue of the new web-news magazine - Ayyappavani - in front of you! Release of this national news magazine of Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam (SASS) today, on the auspicious day of Sabarimala Prathishtadinam, is a moment to celebrate.

The main activity of SASS being organising Devotees of Lord Ayyappa through weekly group meetings - satsang - named "Ayyappa Yogams", to teach Ayyappa Dharma /Sanathana Dharma, to facilitate the awareness programs, we

plan to release regular web- newsletters, as magazine in the initial stage. The contents are organized in simple language with articles on important subjects, messages from eminent Guruswamis, religious heads and dignitaries, knowledge on our heritage, informations, stories, subhashithams, news, query etc. We are always open to constructive criticism and suggestions to improve our work still further.

I would like to wish all the best to the editorial board of the "Ayyappavani" in their endeavour to show and guide their readers the right path and to impart knowledge and the required information regularly.

T.B. Shekhar (National Chairman)  
 01<sup>st</sup> June, 2020.

## STORY OF "SABARI MATHA"

The abode of Swamy Ayyappan is Sabarimala. These mountain ranges got the name Sabarimala from Sabari matha, a staunch devotee of Lord Sree Rama!!

Shabari was a hunter's daughter and belonged to the Nishadha tribal community. The night before her marriage, she saw that thousands of goats and sheep were brought by her father, which were going to be sacrificed for the marriage dinner. Moved by compassion, during the early hours of the morning, she renounced the world and ran away in search of a Master. After days of travelling, she met Sage Matanga at the foot of the Mountain Rishyamukha and accepted him as guru, serving him with devotion. When her guru Matanga was about to die, Shabari—now an old woman—said that after serving him throughout her life, she wanted to reach the same "abode of peace" which Matanga reached. There upon, the sage said that by the virtue of her seva (service), Lord Ram shall give her darshan and asks her to wait for his arrival. Saying this, the sage sitting in lotus posture attains Mahasamadhi. As per her guru's words, Shabari anticipated for the arrival of lord Rama.

Everyday Shabari would go out of her ashram, with the help of a walking stick and pluck berry fruits for Lord Ram. She would pluck a fruit, first taste it, and if it was sweet, she would put it in her basket and discard the bitter ones. She wanted to give the good and sweet fruits only to Ram. The thought never came to her that she should not taste it before it was offered to a deity. Thus collecting a few fruits, Shabari went back to her ashram and eagerly anticipate Ram's arrival.

While Sri Rama was in the search mode of Sita Devi, He reached Shabari's place. Even though hundreds of other yogis were waiting to receive Rama in their ashrams, Rama went only to Shabari's ashram because of her sincere devotion/true bhakti. Shabari offered the fruits she

had meticulously collected to Rama. When Rama was tasting them, Lakshmana raised the concern that Shabari had already tasted them and therefore unworthy of eating. To this Rama said that of the many types of food he had tasted, "nothing could equal these berry fruits, offered with such devotion". Pleased with Shabari's devotion, Rama blesses her with His divine Vision. Shabari also tells Rama to take help from Sugreeva and where to find him. The Ramayana says that Shabari was a very bright and knowledgeable saint.

Rama delivers His discourse on nava-vidha bhakti (ninefold devotion) to Shabari : "First is satsang or association with love-intoxicated devotees and righteous people. The second is to develop a taste for hearing My nectar-like stories. The third is service to the guru. Fourth is to sing My kirtan (communal chorus). Japa or repetition of My Holy name and chanting My bhajans are the fifth expression. To follow scriptural injunctions always, to practise control of the senses, nobility of character and selfless service, these are expressions of the sixth mode of bhakti. Seeing Me manifested everywhere in this world and worshipping My saints more than myself is the seventh mode of bhakti. To find no fault with anyone and to be contented with one's lot is the eighth mode of bhakti. Unreserved surrender with total faith in My strength is the ninth and highest stage. Shabari, anyone who practises one of these nine modes of My bhakti, pleases Me most and reaches Me without fail. That which is most difficult for the greatest yogis was easily attained by you, Shabari, because of your sincere devotion."

The holy place-mountain, where Shabari Matha did her tapas/penance and attained moksha, thousands of years ago in Treta Yugam, is the abode of Lord Dharmasastha/Ayyappa and is known in Her name as Sabarimala.

"Sanghe Sakthi Kalou Yuge": As per this ancient Sanskrit adage, there is strength in the union of hearts and minds of people; the collective energy of thousands, with the intention of reviving human values can bring about a far greater transformation in society than individual effort. Lord Ayyappa demonstrated the importance of organizational strength- sanghe sakthi, by organizing his people, in the name of "Yogams", to fight against demonic forces.

SABARIMALA AYYAPPA SEVA SAMAJAM (SASS) is an Organization of Devotees of Lord Ayyappa worldwide. It is a Public Charitable Trust, registered on 13th November, 2008, No. 226/2008, at Pathanamthitta in Kerala State, India and the Holy Sabarimala Temple is located in the Pathanamthitta District.

The Sabarimala Temple is managed by Government of Kerala through "Travancore Devaswom Board", is supposed to provide all kinds of facilities to the Devotees, but there is huge gap between the demand and supply and hence SASS has a major role to play.

Swargeeya Rajaguru M. N. Nambiar (Cine Artist), Swargeeya M. N. Sukumaran Nambiar, Sarva Sri. Kummanam Rajasekharan (Ex. Governor of Mizoram), S.Sethumadhavan, A.R. Mohanan, Erode N. Rajan, Swami Ayyappadas, V.K. Viswanathan, Sundara Lakshmanan, T.V.Lakshmi Narayanan, K. Padma kumar, V. P. Manmadhan Nair etc.- Devotees and stalwarts in Hindu Organizational works, started this Organization - SASS aiming at (a) doing all kinds of Free services - Annadanam, Medical and Stretcher facilities, Ambulance services, Blood donation camps, Help desk etc. to the Devotees, during Mandala - Makaravilakku season of 65 days every year and (b) organising Devotees of Lord Ayyappa through weekly group meetings - satsang - named "Ayyappa Yogams", to teach Ayyappa Dharma - Sanathana Dharma and unite them with good character, discipline, piety and patriotism, to facilitate social reformation through social justice and social equality.

The Registered Office of SASS is "Kesava Smrithi", Kallarakkadavu, Pathanamthitta - 689645, Kerala State, India with Administrative Office at Ayyappa Vihar, Shiva Temple Road, Vyyur, Thrissur- 680 010, Kerala, India. It is an organization, started in Kerala, later expanded and spread over to 18 States with expansion plans in all the

States soon and even other countries where Devotees of Lord Ayyappa are settled. Presently the activities of SASS are monitored by the patronage and guidance of the Board of Trustees through National Executive Committee headed by Shri. T. B. Shekhar as Chairman and Shri. Erode N. Rajan as General Secretary at National level, felicitated and managed by State and District level Committees and are implemented through its various base units - Ayyappa Yogams,

SASS has a noble vision of giving all kinds of services to the devotees reaching Sabarimala and all poor public, to confirm that all of them get trouble free, peaceful darshan of Lord Ayyappa without any difficulty. We have a target of developing the main Ayyappa Seva Kendras (ASK), located at Sannidhanam, Pampa, Nilakkal, Vizhikkithodu, Koonamkara and Erumeli, full-fledged Ayyappa Seva Kendras (ASK) with all facilities. Further, the organization plans setting up of 9 permanent ASKS at the 9 main entry and vantage points in Kerala State viz. Shenkotta, Theni, Walar, Wayanad, Guruvayur, Kalady, Chengannur, Pandalam, and Kasaragode. These ASKS will be provided with all facilities like Drinking water, Food, Shelter, Resting place, Toilets & Bath rooms, Medical facilities etc. Further, the organisation preach, teach and practice the importance of Swachh Sabarimala, Swachh Erumeli & Swachh Bharath and always engage in activities for the propagation of eco friendly organic farming/jaiva krishi, worshipping and breeding original Cow as Gaumatha, real meaning and practice of the Mandala vrutha, preparation of plastic free & divine Irumudi etc.

Ayyappa Yogam is the basic unit of SASS. The meaning of the word 'Yogam' is 'coming together' and the word 'Ayyappa' is added because Lord Ayyappa Himself organised Ayyappa Yogams during his life time. The Birth Star of Lord Ayyappa is 'Uthram' and every month the day of Uthram star, is celebrated as Uthram Pooja. Some of the other major regular events are Ayyappa Sangamams, Guruswami Sangamams and Mahila conventions. Celebrating Makara Jyothi as another deepavali, Prathishta dinam (idol installation day), Onam, Vishu, Chithira Attathirunal, Mandala Makaravilakku, Festival- all these more-auspicious days are divinely celebrated in the Ayyappa Yogams.

### Subhashitham-1

यौति न्याय प्रवर्तस्य /  
 तीर्यङ्गोपि सहायताम् ।  
 अपथानां तू गच्छत्वाम् /  
 सोदारोपि विमुञ्जति।।

Yanthi Nyaya Pravarthasya /  
 Thiryangopi Sahayatham  
 Apathanamthu Gachchanthwam /  
 Sodaropi Vimunghathi.

("To whom who walks in the paths of righteousness -dharma, even lower animals render help; him who goes the paths of unrighteousness- adharm, his own brother forsakes" - This is the eternal truth of SriRamayana - help of monkeys to SreeRama, Vibheeshna leaving Ravana).



### Board of Trustees & National Team

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1	Sri.T.B.Shekhar, Tumakuru, Karnataka	Chairman Trustee	94884 04722 tbshekhar@gmail.com
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15	Sri.R.K.Nair, Silvasa, Dadra & Nagar haveli	Secretary, Abhivardhana Samithi.	96010 01100 rknaier.sil@gmail.com

### Opening and Closing of Sabarimala Temple: 2020 - 21

Month	Sreekovil opens for Pooja	Opening date	Closing date
December 2019	Makaravilakku	30/12/2019 5pm	20/01/2020 10pm
January 2020	Makaravilakku Day	15/01/2020	
February 2020	Monthly Pooja - Kumbham	13/02/2020 5pm	18/02/2020 10pm
March 2020	Monthly Pooja - Meenam	13/03/2020 5pm	18/03/2020 10pm
	Sabarimala Utsavam/ Festival	28/03/2020 5pm	07/04/2020 10pm
	Kodiyettu	29/03/2020	
April 2020	Pankuni Uthram & Arattu	07/04/2020	
	Monthly Pooja - Medam,	10/04/2020 5pm	18/04/2020 10pm
	Vishu	14/04/2020	
May 2020	Monthly Pooja - Edavam	14/05/2020 5pm	19/05/2020 10pm
	Prathishta Dinam Pooja	31/05/2020 5pm	01/06/2020 10pm
June 2020	Monthly Pooja - Midhunam	14/06/2020 5pm	19/06/2020 10pm
July 2020	Monthly Pooja - Karkkidakam	15/07/2020 5pm	20/07/2020 10pm
August 2020	Monthly Pooja - Chingam	16/08/2020 5pm	21/08/2020 10pm
	Onam Pooja	29/08/2020 5pm	02/09/2020 10pm
	Onam Day	31/08/2020	
September 2020	Monthly Pooja - Kanni	16/09/2020 5pm	21/09/2020 10pm
October 2020	Monthly Pooja - Thulam	16/10/2020 5pm	21/10/2020 10pm
November 2020	Sree Chithra Atta Thirunal	12/11/2020 5pm	13/11/2020 10pm
	Mandala Pooja Maholsavam	15/11/2020 5pm	26/12/2020 10pm
December 2020	Mandala Pooja	26/12/2020	
December 2020	Makaravilakku	30/12/2020	
January 2021	Makaravilakku Day	14/01/2021	

### SABARIMALA TEMPLE - POOJA TIMINGS\*

PARTICULARS	NORMAL PERIOD	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.

\*Prepared in consultation with the Sabarimala Thanthri. \*\*MANDALA-MAKARA VILAKKU SEASON

### PRAYER

#### शबरीमला अय्यप्प सेवा समाजम् - प्रार्थना (संस्कृत)

श्रीधर्मशास्त्रनमस्करोम्यद्वा ते / भद्राणि द्रष्टुं सुहृदि च देहि नः /  
पादारविन्दं शरणं हि मादृशाम् / दोषापहाराय शक्तिं च देहि नः ।  
उच्छ्वस्त्रं मम पञ्चेन्द्रियं भवान् / अय्यप्पतत्त्वस्य ज्ञानं हि देहि नः /  
पावनमार्गणं चालयेत् सर्वदा ॥ 1 ॥ प्राप्नुयामो वयं शीघ्रं हि त्वत्त्वम् ॥ 4 ॥  
स्वामिन् शरणम् अय्यप्प ॥ स्वामिन् शरणम् अय्यप्प ॥

अय्यप्पसेवासमाजस्य स्यामहं / जन्म प्राप्ता जनाः पुण्यभू भारते /  
नमः सदस्यश्चरन् धर्ममेव हि । सुव्रतेर्देव ते सेवया निर्मलाः ।  
भूमौ तु वलेशेन जीवतां प्राणिनां / तामसभावं परित्यज्य सद्गतिं ।  
सर्वे देहि मे शक्तिं दयानिधे ॥ 2 ॥ साधयेयुस्तत्र भूयास्य साधनम् ॥ 5 ॥  
स्वामिन् शरणम् अय्यप्प ॥ स्वामिन् शरणम् अय्यप्प ॥

मार्तुर्मेनसे भक्तिर्यथा तथा / तत्त्वमसीति यज्ज्ञानं प्रकाशितं /  
भूयादचञ्चला भक्तिश्च मे हृदि । तमे हृदये प्रकाशतां सर्वदा ।  
कर्मनिष्ठा वयं भूयास्य सेवकाः / स्वाध्यासादिभिर्बुद्धं तु जन्म मे /  
हृत्तटे दम्भविहीना भवेम च ॥ 3 ॥ व्यर्थं न भूयाद इतीह मे प्रार्थना ॥ 6 ॥  
स्वामिन् शरणम् अय्यप्प ॥ स्वामिन् शरणम् अय्यप्प ॥ (3)

#### PRAYER (English)

SreeDharma Saasthar Namaskaro mmyadhyathe / \*Paadaravindam Saranam Himaadrushaam / \*Uchrunalam mama Panchendriyam bhavaan / \*Paavana maargena Chaalayeth Sarvadaa-1 \*Swaamin Saranamayyappa...

Ayyappa seva samaajasya Syaamaham / \*Namra sadasyascharan Dharma mevahi / \*Bhoomou thu klesheha Jeevathaam praaninaam / \*Sevane dehime shakthim Dayaandhe-2 \*Swamin Saranamayyappa...

Maaruthar maanase Bhaktir yadaa thathaa / \*Bhooyath Achanchalaa Bhaktischa me hrudee / \*Karmanishtaaya vayam Bhooyasma sevakaah / \*Hruthadhe dambha Viheena bhavema cha-3 \*Swamin Saranamayyappa...

Bhadraani drashtum Sudhrustischa dehina: / \*Doshapahaaraaya Shakthim cha dehina: / \*Ayyappa thathasya Gnaanam hi dehina: / \*Praapnuayamo vayam Sheeghram hi thwath padam -4 \*Swamin Saranamayyappa...

Janma praapthaa janaa: Punya bhoo bhaarathe / \*Suvrathair deva the Sevayaa nirmalaa: / \*Thaamasa bhaavam Parithyajya Sadgatham / \*Saadhayeyus thathra Bhooyasma saadhanam -5 \*Swamin Saranamayyappa...

Thadwamasaeethi Yaj gnaanam prakaashitham / \*Thanme hrudanth Prakaashatham sarvadaa / \*Swaartha lobhaadi bhir Baddham thu janma me / \*Vyarththam na bhooyath Ithechame praarthana -6 \*Swamin Saranamayyappa... Swamin Saranamayyappa... Swamin Saranamayyappa...

#### MEANING

1. Oh Lord Dharmasastha, You are my ultimate shelter/refuge and I surrender myself with folded hands at Your lotus feet. May You guide my uncontrolled five senses through the path of righteousness... Swamin Saranamayyappa/ Lord Ayyappa, I bow and surrender completely in front of You.

2. I am an humble, devoted organ (member) of the Sabarimala Ayyappa Seva Samajam strictly abiding to Dharma/ Righteousness. God, the treasure of mercy, May You give me strength to serve the creatures of earth, living in poor, distress conditions... Lord Ayyappa, I bow and surrender completely in front of You.

3. May you instill in my heart, steady and unshaken devotion, like the devotion of Hanumanji's heart. May we become dedicated, service oriented volunteers, without an iota of ego in our mind.... Lord Ayyappa, I bow and surrender completely in front of You.

4. May You give us good-sight to view only the good virtues in others; sufficient strength to eradicate social evils; the clear understanding/ wisdom of Ayyappa-doctrine also may be given to us; May we reach Your feet soon... Lord Ayyappa, I bow and surrender completely in front of You.

5. Oh Bhagwan, all the people born in the holy land of Bharath became taintless, perfect through good religious practices / pious penance observances and services to You. Let their darkness in mind may be removed and attain the path of righteousness; may we be made instrumental in this transformation.... Lord Ayyappa, I bow and surrender completely in front of You.

6. The great knowledge / gyan that we understand by the word Tatwamasi, be glittered always in my heart. My life in this world/ janma not to be wasted, tied to selfishness and greediness - is my prayer..... Lord Ayyappa, I bow and surrender completely in front of You/ Swamin Saranamayyappa. (3)

#### NEWS

Conducted NEC Meeting - video conference mode- on 13th May 2020. Presided over by National Chairman. 15 National/State level office bearers attended.

3 Regional Meetings conducted by National Executive Karyakarthis - Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Organising Secretary and Admin Secretary and attended by about 60 State level Karyakarthis on May 16, 17, 18 & 22. Next round of Central and Region-wise meetings are planned from June 1 to 7th.

Press Note was released on 20th April 2020 by the National Chairman & General Secretary condemning the heinous murder of two poojya Rishies along with their driver at Palghar in Maharashtra state and to Order for immediate enquiries by the Central Agencies to find out the persons in the conspiracy. Protest notes were issued against proposed auction/sale of Gold, lamps, vessels, etc. in temples for non temple related activities and illegal encroachment in the forest land in the Sabarimala trekking route by some people of minority community. Various State and District Committees also had issued such Protest Notes.

A protest press note was issued on 5th May 2020 by the Kerala State Committee against the transfer of Rs.5 cr to Kerala CM's Relief Fund from the Guruvayur Devaswam,

which is unlawful and against the interests of the temple. While disposing cases filed by various Hindu organizations, Hon High Court of Kerala ordered against the transfer of any more funds in future and the matter was referred to a larger bench.

Kokan Pranth has already started their new web-newsletter Ayyappavani last month. They have arranged national level competitions in "Drawing of Ayyappa", "singing SASS prayer" and "Global Ayyappa songs singing competetion".

NEC directed all Ayyappasevaks to arrange separate service activities and also support Government agencies in the fight against COVID.

Most of the states have reported their service activities, mainly supply of masks, food materials and annadanam to the poor, needy persons - badly affected by COVID related restrictions.

National General Secretary had issued guidelines to celebrate Uthram Pooja on May 31st and continue celebrating Uthram pooja in future, regularly and also to celebrate June 5th as the 346th anniversary of Chathrapathi Shivaji Maharaj's Coronation - Haingdavi Swaraj Day.

NEC requested the Govt for opening of temples with restrictions, to enable survival of the employees dependant upon temples.