

P.R. No.770**Date: 13.11.2017****Press Release**

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address the Special Conference Meeting presided by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala on the sidelines of Mandala Magara Kala Season of 2017 -18. I take this opportunity to convey the warm wishes of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to the august gathering of Hon'ble Ministers and dignitaries.

Our beloved leader Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has always been keen on implementing various schemes in the service of the lord almighty. The famous Annadanam Scheme was inaugurated by our revered leader Honourable Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma on 23rd March 2002 at Mylapore, Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple, Chennai and is continued till date. Our kind hearted leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma with so much of passion for the temple elephants, issued orders to organize Special Rejuvenation Camps for Elephants maintained in temples and also by individuals, in a cool environment conducive to elephants at Mudumalai Theppakkadu. Our visionary leader, also introduced various schemes such as Oru Kaala Pooja Scheme, Scheme to procure Pooja Articles for Small Temples, Scheme for Revival of Kaala Poojas in Ancient Temples and scheme to carry out Tiruppani (Conservation, Restoration and Renovation) of Temples by creating a Tiruppani Fund.

An exclusive information Center is functioning at the Headquarters of the Tamil Nadu Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department for the benefit of Iyyappa devotees every year. Considering the effective utilization of the information center by the Iyyappa devotees, exclusive Information Centers will be established in addition to the information Centers already functioning in other Districts this year. I am glad to mention here that the Iyyappa devotees from Tamil Nadu, scrupulously follow the restrictions imposed in Sabarimala by the Government of Kerala supporting the intent of Government of Kerala to protect and preserve the Environment and the mother Nature. I state that 40% of the devotees are from Tamil Nadu. To effective cooperation and for smooth facilitation, a member representing from Tamil Nadu, proposed by the Government of Tamil Nadu may be appointed in the Travancore Devasom Board.

I am informed that the Government of Tamil Nadu has made a request to Government of Kerala to provide all possible basic amenities to the Iyyappa devotees from Tamil Nadu. I am happy to know that the Government of Kerala had agreed to provide 5 Acres of land for the benefit of devotees from Tamil Nadu. I am glad to inform that in reciprocity to the gesture extended by the Government of Kerala, the Government of Tamil Nadu has also consented to allot 5 Acres of land at Palani for the benefit of pilgrims from Kerala. I request the Government of Kerala to provide all possible basic amenities and also to hand

over the agreed 5 Acres land at the earliest to enable the Government of Tamil Nadu to provide additional facilities for the use of the devotees of Lord Iyyappa. I wish and pray that Lord Iyyappa shower his blessings abundantly on both the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala during the ensuing Magara Jothi.

I assure on behalf of people of Tamil Nadu and our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu that the Government of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma will extend its fullest co-operation and support to Government of Kerala in all areas of cooperation for the benefit of the devotees from both the States. I thank the administration and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala for this wonderful opportunity.

Issued By :- DIPR, Secretariat, Chennai - 9.