



GOVT. OF KERALA

INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

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**SABARIMALA PRESS RELEASE- 1**

PHONE : 04735-202664

[www.prd.kerala.gov.in](http://www.prd.kerala.gov.in), [prdsabarimala2020@gmail.com](mailto:prdsabarimala2020@gmail.com)

### ***Malaysian currency makes it the most at the depository this season at Sabarimala***

*Singapore makes it the most offerings to Lord Ayyappan from a foreign country. The Sri Lankan rupee is also close. But in terms of value, the Malaysian ringgit is far ahead. The Sri Lankan rupee doesn't even cost 50 paise when a ringgit is valued at Rs 17. During the Mandala-Makara Vilakku season, the Rinkett worth more than a crore worth gets often at Sabarimala this season. Singapore and US dollars are no less. The UAE is the next largest currency notes from the Gulf countries.*

*This time a few notes from Poland also got in the bhandaram. Even notes from countries not familiar with Malayali have been also got at Sabarimala. Gacha in Malawi, Cedis in Ghana and Larry in Georgia are the other foreign notes got at Sabarimala. This season, Sabarimala treasury also got currencies from South Africa's Rand, Egyptian Pound, Myanmar's Kyat, Bhutan's Ngultrums, Vietnam's Dong and Won in Korea.*

*Most of the devotees who come from Malaysia to Sabarimala are from Tamil Nadu. It is customary for them to hand over all the rupees they have kept in their piggy box for a year. Most of the notes are covered with turmeric and ashes. Many of these notes are not worth using. Sometimes even banned notes are deposited here. Devotees write their requests on these notes. About 10 percent of the foreign currencies received during the season are torn or unusable.*

*Foreign notes collected from the treasury will be counted in the presence of the Dhanlaxmi Bank Manager Vigilance Officer. Dhanalakshmi Bank Manager Praveen said that this would be handed over to the highest bidder through an open tender*

*at four exchange houses in Ernakulam. However, Assistant Manager Rakesh said that there is no way to convert foreign coins into Indian Rupees.*

**(PR-246)**

### ***Motor Vehicle department's Safe Zone makes it safe the road to Sabarimala***

*Safe Zone of the Motor Vehicle department has paved the way for safety on the roads leading to Sabarimala. The motor vehicle department under the Safe Zone has completed patrolling over 4,25,000 km and reduced vehicle accidents this season. It is noteworthy that there was not a single automobile accident during this season. There were only 215 minor fatalities this season. 194 of devotees injured in minor accidents.*

*As part of the project, 18 squads have been patrolling for 24 hours. At Elavunkal eight squads, four in Erumeli and six in Kuttikkanam. There were also five supervising squads to oversee the mission. In the meantime, 9236 breakdown cases were resolved. There were specially trained mechanics and sophisticated equipment to repair the vehicles.*

*Devotees were given special instructions in six languages in the Nilakkal parking lot. It also had a health check-up system for the vehicles. Minor repairing was done in more than 4,000 vehicles.*

*Announcements were made via the microphone to keep drivers from falling asleep. The road malfunctions were immediately notified to the PWD.*

*Notices in six languages have been delivered to various states in advance. The notifications were issued with a focus on check posts and key centers. Notices have already been sent to the Transport Commissioners of Gujarat and the other Southern States. The announcement was made on the specifications of the Sabarimala road and the concerns of devotees. The inspection of Safe Zone Squads was conducted within 450 km of Idukki, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta Districts. Safe zone special officer PD Sunil Babu said that about 75 squads operated during the Makara Vilakku.*

**(PR-247)**

### ***Padi Pooja begins at Sabarimala***

*Due to a variety of customs and legends, the Sabarimala Sridharmashastha Temple is always popular. The unique padipooja ceremony has started at Sabarimala soon after the Makara Vilakku festival. The padipooja will be up to January 20 starting from January 16. The padi pooja is being performed by Tantri Kantararu Mahesh Mohanaru and chief priest Areekara Sudheer Namboodiri.*

*The padi pooja performed in the 18th step has many features. It is widely believed that the 18 hills in Sabarimala represent the holy eighteen steps. The concept here is that every step of the way represents the Malaya god. Others claim that they are based on eighteen myths. The five senses of the eye, the nose, the tongue, the skin, and the ear represent the first five steps, and the steps represent, lust, fury, religion, rebellion, and pride. The next three steps are based on the three attributes - a monster, rajas, and tamas. Wisdom and Knowledge represent the 17 and 18 steps.*

*The eighteenth step becomes more important and glorious. Padipuja is a puja performed in accordance with these 18 steps. All the Abhishekas and Poojas performed within the temple are held unchanged.*

**(PR-248)**

### ***Sabarimala closes on January 21 after Makara Pooja***

*Sabarimala Sri Dharmasastha Temple will be closed on January 21st at 6 am. Ayyappa devotees will be allowed darshan till the night of the 20th. The shrine will be opened on the 21st at 3 am. Thereafter the Jalabhishekam, Palabhishekam and Ilanir Abhishekam will take place. And then the Ganapati Homam. Thereafter, everyone from the Sabarimala Ayyappa shrine and from Tirumuttam will be evacuated to make way for the Pandalam Royal representative to perform his darshan. After completing the Ayyappa darshan, the temple will be closed singing the lullaby of the Lord Ayyappa, the Harivarasanam. On the morning of the 19th morning the Neyabhiseka by Pandalalam Palace will be held. Immediately after the 25th Kalashabhisheka, the Kalabhabhisheka will take place jointly done by the Pandalam Palace and the Devaswom Board. After Neyabhisheka on the 19th, there won't have the Neyabhishekam any more. On the 19th, after dinner, at 9 pm, the procession from the Mani Mandapam to the Saram Kuthi temple will be held. After returning to the temple, the nada will be closed at 10.50 am after singing the Hari Harivasanam at 11 am.*

*The nada will open on January 20 at 3 p.m. After supper at 9 pm, the Harivarasana will be performed at 9.50 am. The guruthi will be followed at Malikappuram. After closing the temple on the 21st, the temple chief priest will come down with the key and handover to the king's representative along with the cash. After receiving it, the king will return the cash to oversee the temple expenses for the next year. This is how the ceremonial rituals are completed. The temple will be opened on the 13th of February for the Kumbamasa Puja.*

**(PR-249)**

<p>വാർത്തകൾ ഇനി കാണാം... കേൾക്കാം... വായിക്കാം...</p>	 <p>PRD LIVE</p>	<p><b>PRD LIVE</b> ഒരു മൊബൈൽ ആപ്ലിക്കേഷനാണ്. ആൻഡ്രോയിഡ് വേർഷനിലുള്ള എല്ലാ സ്മാർട്ട് ഫോണിലും <b>PRD LIVE</b> ലഭ്യമാകും. പ്ലേ സ്റ്റോറിൽ നിന്നും <b>PRD LIVE</b> ഡൗൺലോഡ് ചെയ്യാം.</p>
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